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*"Rummaging in the government's attic"*

Description of document: Department of Agriculture (USDA) intra-agency emails and memoranda regarding "pink slime," 2010-2011 – Part 2

Requested date: 01-April-2012

Released date: 11-March-2013

Posted date: 15-April-2013

Source of document: Supervisory FOIA Specialist  
US Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety & Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Room 1142-S  
Washington, DC 20250  
Fax: 202-690-3023  
Email: [FSIS.FOIA@usda.gov](mailto:FSIS.FOIA@usda.gov)

Notes: This is Part Two of this material.  
Part One of this material is available [here](#).

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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food Safety  
and Inspection  
Service

Washington, D.C.  
20250

MAR 11 2013

RE: FOIA-2012-00139  
"Pink Slime"

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) dated April 1, 2012, in which you requested a copy of all USDA intra-agency emails regarding "pink slime," from January 1, 2010 to March 31, 2012.

In responding to a FOIA request, FSIS' search will include responsive records in its control on the date the search began.

Your request is granted in part at no cost to you. We have 2,571 pages that are responsive to your request. After a thorough review, we have determined that portions of the documents are exempt from disclosure under (b)(2), (b)(4), (b)(5) and (b)(6) of the FOIA of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended. We are releasing a total of 2,571 pages: 2,102 pages released in part, and 469 pages released in their entirety. Enclosed are the releasable portions of the responsive records.

FOIA Exemption 2 protects information that is "related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency." Examples of information withheld under Exemption 2 include computer codes and option commands, teletype routing symbols, and access codes. Under this exemption, we are withholding teleconference numbers and pass codes.

FOIA Exemption 4 protects "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential," which are proprietary in nature. Disclosure of this information would impair the government's ability to obtain necessary information in the future, and may cause substantial harm to the competitive position of the person from whom the information was obtained. Under the balancing test of this exemption, we are withholding information within email communications that is proprietary in nature.

FOIA Exemption 5 applies to records that concern deliberative, pre-decisional information, and, pursuant, to case law, we have excluded "those documents, and only those documents that are normally privileged in the civil discovery context." This means that we have excluded from release under Exemption 5 documents that are protected by attorney-client privilege or the Work Product Doctrine.



FOIA Exemption 6 protects information that would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. FSIS conducted a FOIA analysis and determined that there is no countervailing public interest qualifying under the standard set forth to release the identity of certain Agency personnel and third parties. These names would not shed light on the Agency's performance of its statutory duties.

You may appeal this determination within 45 days from the date of this letter. Your appeal should include copies of your original request and this response, as well as a discussion of the reasons supporting your appeal.


The envelope should be plainly marked to indicate that it contains a FOIA appeal. If you decide to appeal, please send your appeal to:

Alfred V. Almanza  
Administrator  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Room 1140 South Building  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

Your FOIA request, including your identity and the information made available, is releasable to the public under subsequent FOIA requests. In responding to these requests, FSIS does not release personal privacy information, such as home addresses, telephone numbers, or Social Security Numbers, all of which are protected from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 6.

Thank you for your interest in FSIS programs and policies.

Sincerely,

  
*for* Leilani B. Hannie  
FSIS FOIA Officer  
Executive Correspondence  
And Issues Management Staff

Enclosure

**From:** [Mealtalk listserv](#) on behalf of [NAL Listserv](#)  
**To:** [Mealtalk@echina.NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@echina.NAL.USDA.GOV)  
**Bcc:** [FSIS Outreach](#)  
**Subject:** Mealtalk Digest - 25 Mar 2012 to 30 Mar 2012 - Special Issue (#2012-25)  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 6:09:35 PM

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There are 35 messages totaling 10494 lines in this issue.

Topics in this special issue:

1. Charges and Alternate Meals
2. Lean Finely Textured Beef (Again)
3. Cooling pads (4)
4. Upcoming Webinar on April 18th - Managing Food Safety When Handling Fresh Produce in Schools
5. Oat Bread (8)
6. Food Network Special: Hunger Hits Home
7. FW: Rick Perry, fellow governors to sample 'pink slime,' push back against US outcry
8. thermometers (4)
9. Plastic cutlery packs (11)
10. 100% Juice contribution (3)

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Visit the Healthy Meals Resource System <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov>

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**Date:** Mon, 26 Mar 2012 08:20:16 -0500  
**From:** Laura Stewart <[lstewart@MPISD.NET](mailto:lstewart@MPISD.NET)>  
**Subject:** Re: Charges and Alternate Meals

We aggressively contact parents when their children are nearing the established charge limit. For our elementary students, we prepare a sack lunch with the alternate meal and take it to the office. The office staff notify the teachers who have students that need alternative lunches and then the teachers have the students pick up the lunches on the way to the cafeteria. They can come through the lunch line and pick up milk. This way, embarrassment is minimized for the student and I don't have my staff trying to come up with lunch money (that they don't have) in order to pay for a child's lunch.

Thank you,  
Laura Stewart  
Director of Food Services  
Mt. Pleasant ISD  
903-575-2096  
"Feeding the Body to Fuel the Mind"

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**Date:** Mon, 26 Mar 2012 08:47:40 -0500  
**From:** Joannie Miller <[fooddir@BOGSCHOOLS.ORG](mailto:fooddir@BOGSCHOOLS.ORG)>  
**Subject:** Lean Finely Textured Beef (Again)

Good Morning,

I have attached a document and a link to an excellent short video that you may find interesting. This was forwarded by our LDAF.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/GDIPjmsKeh8?rel=0>

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-----  
**Date:** Wed, 28 Mar 2012 08:23:46 -0500  
**From:** Shelly Robinson <[srobinson@ESC17.NET](mailto:srobinson@ESC17.NET)>

Subject: Cooling pads

A while back someone wrote about a cooling pad that could be placed on the serving line so that pans could be placed on it to keep foods cold. I believe you place it in the freezer prior to serving much like those small ice packs used at home. I cannot seem to find the correct e-mail. Can someone please share the information about the product including brand, code number, dimensions, etc.?

Thanks.

Shelly Robinson  
Coordinator for Health, Nutrition, and Purchasing  
Education Service Center Region 17  
1111 West Loop 289  
Lubbock, TX 79416  
806.281.5809  
806.799.8630 (fax)

srobinson@esc17.net

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Date: Wed, 28 Mar 2012 08:28:50 -0500  
From: "Pinkham, April" <apinkham@WALLERISD.NET>  
Subject: Re: Cooling pads

Cambro has them.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov] On Behalf Of Shelly Robinson  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:24 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [Mealtalk] Cooling pads

A while back someone wrote about a cooling pad that could be placed on the serving line so that pans could be placed on it to keep foods cold. I believe you place it in the freezer prior to serving much like those small ice packs used at home. I cannot seem to find the correct e-mail. Can someone please share the information about the product including brand, code number, dimensions, etc.?

Thanks.

Shelly Robinson  
Coordinator for Health, Nutrition, and Purchasing Education Service  
Center Region 17  
1111 West Loop 289  
Lubbock, TX 79416  
806.281.5809  
806.799.8630 (fax)

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Date: Wed, 28 Mar 2012 10:06:17 -0400  
From: Lynn Huggins <hugglynn@ATLANTICBB.NET>  
Subject: Re: Cooling pads

I did a test with these a year or so ago and they did not work well for us.  
The Cambro Coldfest pans work much better as they can be frozen and hold items on the line for several hours. Our health inspectors are also pleased that we are using these in areas without refrigeration on the line.  
Lynn Huggins, DTR, FSD

On Wed, 28 Mar 2012 08:28:50 -0500  
"Pinkham, April" <apinkham@WALLERISD.NET<<mailto:apinkham@WALLERISD.NET>>> wrote:  
Cambro has them.

-----Original Message-----  
From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Shelly Robinson  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:24 AM  
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Date: Wed, 28 Mar 2012 16:33:54 +0000  
From: "Abrera, Julie" <jabrera@SCHOOLNUTRITION.ORG>  
Subject: Upcoming Webinar on April 18th - Managing Food Safety When Handling Fresh Produce in Schools

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service's Office of Food Safety will be offering a FREE webinar:

Managing Food Safety When Handling Fresh Produce in Schools

Wednesday, April 18th  
2:00-3:15 pm EDT

Learning Objectives:

- \* Participants will be able to explain why fresh produce is associated with increased risk of foodborne illness and will be able to identify types of fresh produce that are considered potentially hazardous.
- \* Participants will understand best practices for handling fresh produce in schools, including recommendations for classrooms and salad bars.
- \* Participants will learn about strategies for training school nutrition staff to handle fresh produce.

To Register  
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/783916986>

Julie Abrera  
Director  
School Nutrition Foundation  
120 Waterfront Street  
Suite 300  
National Harbor, MD 20745  
301-686-3100 x181  
301-686-3115 (fax)  
jabrera@schoolnutrition.org<<mailto:jabrera@schoolnutrition.org>>  
Facebook: School Nutrition Foundation  
Twitter: Beyondbreakfast

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Date: Wed, 28 Mar 2012 15:17:13 -0700

From: Jennifer Gerard <jgerard@MPUSD.K12.CA.US>  
Subject: Oat Bread

Does anyone have a recipe for a quick or breakfast bread using rolled quick cooking oats? We are finding the quick oats are making the breads a little gummy, but unfortunately we have way too many 50# bags of them!

--  
Jenn Gerard, RD  
Director of Nutrition Services  
Monterey Peninsula Unified School District  
office: (831) 645-1266  
cell: (831) 901-7410

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Date: Wed, 28 Mar 2012 20:54:05 -0400  
From: JROvercash <jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG>  
Subject: Re: Cooling pads

Agree!

John

--

Sent from my Android phone with K-9 Mail. Please excuse my brevity.

Lynn Huggins <hugglynn@ATLANTICBB.NET> wrote:

I did a test with these a year or so ago and they did not work well for us.

The Cambro Coldfest pans work much better as they can be frozen and hold items on the line for several hours. Our health inspectors are also pleased that we are using these in areas without refrigeration on the line.

Lynn Huggins, DTR, FSD

On Wed, 28 Mar 2012 08:28:50 -0500

"Pinkham, April" <apinkham@WALLERISD.NET> wrote:

Cambro has them.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child

Nutrition Programs

[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov] On Behalf Of Shelly

Robinson

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:24 AM

To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV

Subject: [Mealtalk] Cooling pads

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be placed on

the serving line so that pans could be placed on it to

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much like those

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Thanks.

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Coordinator for Health, Nutrition, and Purchasing  
Education Service  
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Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 00:01:33 -0400  
From: Janet Sklar <jsklar@BAYSHORE.K12.NY.US>  
Subject: Food Network Special: Hunger Hits Home

Check out this video on YouTube:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSXH1K-yBHI&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSXH1K-yBHI&feature=youtube_gdata_player)



Sent from my iPad

Janet Sklar, MA, CDN, SNS  
NYSNA South Area Director  
Nutrition Services Director  
Bay Shore UFSD  
75 West Perkal St.  
Bay Shore, NY 11706  
(631) 968-1193  
(631) 666-9307 (fax)  
Jsklar@bayshore.k12.NY.us

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\*\*\*\*\*

-----  
Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 09:01:59 -0400  
From: "Martin, Lydia" <Martily@BOE.RICHMOND.K12.GA.US>  
Subject: Re: Oat Bread

We have one if you want me to fax it. It is a Oat Batter Bread and it is very good.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Jennifer Gerard  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:17 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [Mealtalk] Oat Bread

Does anyone have a recipe for a quick or breakfast bread using rolled quick cooking oats? We are finding the quick oats are making the breads a little gummy, but unfortunately we have way too many 50# bags of them!

--  
Jenn Gerard, RD  
Director of Nutrition Services  
Monterey Peninsula Unified School District  
office: (831) 645-1266  
cell: (831) 901-7410

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Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 09:41:57 -0400  
From: "John R. Overcash Jr" <jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG>  
Subject: FW: Rick Perry, fellow governors to sample 'pink slime,' push back against US outcry

Another news story....see link below

John Overcash, SNS  
Food Service Director  
Littleton Public Schools  
c/o Littleton Middle School  
55 Russell Street  
Littleton, MA 01460  
Cell: 978.771.8620  
office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243  
fax: 978.952.4547  
e-mail: jovercash@littletonps.org <<mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org>>

[cid:image001.jpg@01CD0D90.2E80FF30]

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From: paovercash@verizon.net [mailto:paovercash@verizon.net]  
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:15 AM  
To: jovercash@littletonps.org  
Subject: Rick Perry, fellow governors to sample 'pink slime,' push back against US outcry

Hello,

Shared while visiting FoxNews.com:

<http://soc.li/OLOuhy>

Three US governors pledged to sample "pink slime" during a Thursday visit to a Nebraska beef plant, as they attempt to push back against the national outcry over the ground beef additive

This email is a direct message from a friend who wants to share an item of interest with you.  
This email message is powered by Gigya's sharing technology. If you no longer wish to receive messages that are sent via Gigya's service, please click here<[http://www.gigya.com/site/landing.aspx?ut=dBF1I5RbVxUc8nBdc3bMDT7hmmr1vgen1wCG\\_dxqadJhAAWkNZSiHv-1DGKZvwZ0-DQUg5JS8Y61ukrjwOp8p81S9pP6R\\_BhovjemyHtbA0dAsx-PMuL2zlosIac-rUvj3lTh1WL6rg0IY1bfO3pd1xwywwddkLnBQzfon11KP1vwJlOqGjXs\\_iu2h8CdJQcXFZG-Xup9Bm7mM0JdEqOwQWDBRhKsThVfqNx5FhRfDCo7yWbMdx12IehaZ68JA2gxXvZ\\_W9xg1FGZBAUwFib787CqkJ0VuGn\\_2fIAxRfJjtWuVDRaYvW2ZhZJqsPs8M1oAodU8Jg3SLa9NjqbecvzNJtoxFBmAzXG6c-CFMg.>](http://www.gigya.com/site/landing.aspx?ut=dBF1I5RbVxUc8nBdc3bMDT7hmmr1vgen1wCG_dxqadJhAAWkNZSiHv-1DGKZvwZ0-DQUg5JS8Y61ukrjwOp8p81S9pP6R_BhovjemyHtbA0dAsx-PMuL2zlosIac-rUvj3lTh1WL6rg0IY1bfO3pd1xwywwddkLnBQzfon11KP1vwJlOqGjXs_iu2h8CdJQcXFZG-Xup9Bm7mM0JdEqOwQWDBRhKsThVfqNx5FhRfDCo7yWbMdx12IehaZ68JA2gxXvZ_W9xg1FGZBAUwFib787CqkJ0VuGn_2fIAxRfJjtWuVDRaYvW2ZhZJqsPs8M1oAodU8Jg3SLa9NjqbecvzNJtoxFBmAzXG6c-CFMg.>) to remove your email address.  
Gigya Inc., 1975 Landings Dr., Mountain View, CA 94043.

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-----  
Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 09:58:58 -0400  
From: Sue Birmingham HS <sbirmingham@FRONTIER.WNYRIC.ORG>  
Subject: Re: Oat Bread

Lydia,  
I would love it too.....  
My fax i 716-649-1482 or if you want to email it: sbirmingham@frontier.wnyric.org

Thanks!

Susan J. Birmingham, CFE  
Food Service Director  
Frontier Central Schools  
S-4432 Bayview Road  
Hamburg, NY 14075  
716-926-1702  
Fax- 716-649-1482

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\*\*\*\*\*

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Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 14:07:15 +0000  
From: Kristine Scott <RaneK@OGDENSD.ORG>  
Subject: Re: Oat Bread

I have a recipe for oatmeal bread that I make at home. It has oatmeal, but it also uses yeast. I don't know if you want to get that complicated. Or you could just make granola.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov] On Behalf Of Martin, Lydia  
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 7:02 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Oat Bread

We have one if you want me to fax it. It is a Oat Batter Bread and it is very good.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov] On Behalf Of Jennifer Gerard  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:17 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV<<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>  
Subject: [Mealtalk] Oat Bread

Does anyone have a recipe for a quick or breakfast bread using rolled quick cooking oats? We are finding the quick oats are making the breads a little gummy, but unfortunately we have way too many 50# bags of them!

--

Jenn Gerard, RD  
Director of Nutrition Services  
Monterey Peninsula Unified School District  
office: (831) 645-1266  
cell: (831) 901-7410

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Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 06:12:04 -0700  
From: Terri Davis <tdavis@HICKMAN.K12.CA.US>  
Subject: Re: Oat Bread

I have not tried this recipe yet I just found it yesterday but in it I notice you bake the oats in the oven for a bit before mixing, that might fix your problem?

Anyway for what it is worth here is the link to the Blueberry Granola bars <http://www.blueberrycouncil.org/recipe/blueberry-granola-bars/>

If you try it and like could you report back?

Thanks, Terri

Terri Davis- Food Service Manager- Hickman Charter School-  
[www.hickman.k12.ca.us](http://www.hickman.k12.ca.us)- [tdavis@hickman.k12.ca.us](mailto:tdavis@hickman.k12.ca.us)

Always Changing,

Always Growing,

Nothing Ever Stays The Same.

-----  
From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Jennifer Gerard  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:17 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [Mealtalk] Oat Bread

Does anyone have a recipe for a quick or breakfast bread using rolled quick cooking oats? We are finding the quick oats are making the breads a little gummy, but unfortunately we have way too many 50# bags of them!

--

Jenn Gerard, RD  
Director of Nutrition Services  
Monterey Peninsula Unified School District  
office: (831) 645-1266  
cell: (831) 901-7410

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-----

Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 07:17:52 -0700  
From: Paula Lindbo <plindbo@ASD103.ORG>  
Subject: Re: Oat Bread

Lydia,  
I would love it also.....  
Fax 36029 -0744  
Email: plindbo@asd103.org

Paula Lindbo  
Food Service Director  
Anacortes School District  
360-299-1847

-----Original Message-----

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Sue Birmingham HS  
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 6:59 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Oat Bread

Lydia,  
I would love it too.....  
My fax i 716-649-1482 or if you want to email it: sbirmingham@frontier.wnyric.org

Thanks!

Susan J. Birmingham, CFE  
Food Service Director  
Frontier Central Schools  
S-4432 Bayview Road  
Hamburg, NY 14075  
716-926-1702  
Fax- 716-649-1482

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-----

Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 09:18:43 -0500  
From: Shelly Cook <scook@PLEASANTVILLE.K12.IA.US>  
Subject: Re: Oat Bread

I would also like to have this recipe if you could send it to me. Thank you so much.

Shelly Cook FAX 515 848 0561 Pleasantville Schools, Pleasantville IA

On Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 8:01 AM, Martin, Lydia <Martily@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us> wrote:

> We have one if you want me to fax it. It is a Oat Batter Bread and it  
> is very good.\*\*\*\*

> \*\* \*\*

> \*From:\* Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
> [mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov] \*On Behalf Of \*Jennifer Gerard  
> \*Sent:\* Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:17 PM  
> \*To:\* Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
> \*Subject:\* [Mealtalk] Oat Bread\*\*\*\*

> \*\* \*\*

> Does anyone have a recipe for a quick or breakfast bread using rolled  
> quick cooking oats? We are finding the quick oats are making the breads a  
> little gummy, but unfortunately we have way too many 50# bags of them!

> -- \*\*\*\*

> Jenn Gerard, RD\*\*\*\*

> Director of Nutrition Services\*\*\*\*

> Monterey Peninsula Unified School District\*\*\*\*

> office: (831) 645-1266\*\*\*\*

> cell: (831) 901-7410\*\*\*\*

> \*\*\*\*

> \*\*\*\*

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--

\*Shelly Cook  
Food Service Director  
Pleasantville Schools\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

-----  
Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 12:27:47 -0400  
From: Sherrie VanConant <vanconas@BCREEK.K12.MI.US>  
Subject: thermometers

Hi Everyone,  
How does everyone calibrate the digital thermometers they are currently using? Please let me know.

thanks ahead,  
Sherrie

--  
Sherrie VanConant, Director  
Bullock Creek Schools (989-631-2418 ext. 1511)  
Coleman Community Schools (989-465-1891 ext 2360)  
Food& Nutrition Programs  
vanconas@bcreek.k12.mi.us or 989-615-6491

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Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 12:47:38 -0400  
From: Meghan Palmatier <mpalmatier@GASD.NET>  
Subject: Re: thermometers

Fill a glass with Ice and water (as cold as you can get it).  
Place the probe in the water and wait at least 30 seconds or until the temperature stays the same for a few seconds. Make sure it is at 32, if not, manually change it to say 32 degrees or hit the reset button.

That oughta do it :)

On Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 12:27 PM, Sherrie VanConant <<vanconas@bcreek.k12.mi.us>vanconas@bcreek.k12.mi.us> wrote:

Hi Everyone,

How does everyone calibrate the digital thermometers they are currently using? Please let me know.

thanks ahead,  
Sherrie

--  
Sherrie VanConant, Director  
Bullock Creek Schools<tel:%28989-631-2418%20ext.%201511> (989-631-2418 ext. 1511)  
Coleman Community Schools<tel:%28989-465-1891%20ext%202360> (989-465-1891 ext 2360)  
Food& Nutrition Programs  
<vanconas@bcreek.k12.mi.us>vanconas@bcreek.k12.mi.us or<tel:989-615-6491> 989-615-6491

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Visit the Healthy Meals Resource System<<http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov>> <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov>

-----  
Meghan S. Palmatier  
Food Service Director  
Galeton Area School District  
27 Bridge Street  
Galeton, PA 16922  
<<http://www.gasd.net/%7Ewwwgasd/>>(814) 435-6571  
<<http://www.gasd.net/%7Ewwwgasd/>>FAX (814) 435-6981

\*\*\*\*\*  
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-----  
Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 17:12:43 +0000  
From: "Soriano, Judy" <jsoriano@PNGISD.ORG>  
Subject: Re: Oat Bread

I would also my email is jsoriano@pngisd.org<<mailto:jsoriano@pngisd.org>>

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Shelly Cook

Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:19 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Oat Bread

I would also like to have this recipe if you could send it to me. Thank you so much.

Shelly Cook FAX 515 848 0561 Pleasantville Schools, Pleasantville IA  
On Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 8:01 AM, Martin, Lydia <Martily@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us> wrote:  
We have one if you want me to fax it. It is a Oat Batter Bread and it is very good.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov] On Behalf Of Jennifer Gerard  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:17 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>  
Subject: [Mealtalk] Oat Bread

Does anyone have a recipe for a quick or breakfast bread using rolled quick cooking oats? We are finding the quick oats are making the breads a little gummy, but unfortunately we have way too many 50# bags of them!

--  
Jenn Gerard, RD  
Director of Nutrition Services  
Monterey Peninsula Unified School District  
office: (831) 645-1266<tel:%28831%29%20645-1266>  
cell: (831) 901-7410<tel:%28831%29%20901-7410>

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--  
Shelly Cook  
Food Service Director  
Pleasantville Schools

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\*\*\*\*\*

-----  
Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 12:12:22 -0500  
From: Robyn Wood <rs@OREGONSD.NET>  
Subject: Re: thermometers

We do the same.

Robyn

On Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 11:47 AM, Meghan Palmatier <mpalmatier@gasd.net> wrote:

> Fill a glass with ice and water (as cold as you can get it).  
> Place the probe in the water and wait at least 30 seconds or until the  
> temperature stays the same for a few seconds. Make sure it is at 32, if  
> not, manually change it to say 32 degrees or hit the reset button.  
> That oughta do it :)  
>  
>  
> On Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 12:27 PM, Sherrie VanConant <  
> vanconas@bcreek.k12.mi.us> wrote:  
>  
>> Hi Everyone,  
>> How does everyone calibrate the digital thermometers they are currently  
>> using? Please let me know.  
>>  
>> thanks ahead,  
>> Sherrie

Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 13:41:33 -0400  
From: Sherrie VanConant <vanconas@BCREEK.K12.MI.US>



Subject: Re: thermometers

On 3/29/2012 1:12 PM, Robyn Wood wrote:

> We do the same.

> Robyn

>

> On Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 11:47 AM, Meghan Palmatier

> <mpalmatier@gasd.net <<mailto:mpalmatier@gasd.net>>> wrote:

>

> Fill a glass with ice and water (as cold as you can get it).

> Place the probe in the water and wait at least 30 seconds or until

> the temperature stays the same for a few seconds. Make sure it is

> at 32. If not, manually change it to say 32 degrees or hit the

> reset button.

> That oughta do it :)

>

> On Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 12:27 PM, Sherrie VanConant

> <vanconas@bcreek.k12.mi.us <<mailto:vanconas@bcreek.k12.mi.us>>> wrote:

>

> Hi Everyone,

> How does everyone calibrate the digital thermometers they are

> currently

> using? Please let me know.

>

> thanks ahead,

> Sherrie

>

>

> Sherrie VanConant, Director

> Bullock Creek Schools (989-631-2418 ext. 1511

> <tel:%28989-631-2418%20ext.%201511%20>

> Coleman Community Schools (989-465-1891 ext 2360

> <tel:%28989-465-1891%20ext.%202360%20>

> Food& Nutrition Programs

> vanconas@bcreek.k12.mi.us <<mailto:vanconas@bcreek.k12.mi.us>>

> or 989-615-6491 <tel:989-615-6491>

>

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> - 1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Washington, DC 20250-9410 or

> call toll free (866) 632-9992 <tel:%28866%29%20632-9992%20>

> (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech

> disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay

> Service at (800) 877-8339 <tel:%28800%29%20877-8339%20> or (800)

> 845-6136 <tel:%28800%29%20845-6136%20> (Spanish). USDA is an

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> <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov>

> <<http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/>>

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>

>

>

>

> Meghan S. Palmatier

> Food Service Director

> Galeton Area School District

> 27 Bridge Street

> Galeton, PA 16922

> (814) 435-6571 <<http://www.gasd.net/%7Ewwwgasd/>>

> FAX (814) 435-6981 <<http://www.gasd.net/%7Ewwwgasd/>>

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> <<http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/>>  
> \*\*\*\*\*

>  
>  
>  
>  
> --  
> /Robyn Wood/  
> /School Meal Program Director  
> Oregon School District  
> 123 E Grove St  
> Oregon, WI 53575/  
> 608-835-4036  
> [rsww@oregonsd.net](mailto:rsww@oregonsd.net) <<mailto:rsww@oregonsd.net>> -  
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> we do that as well just was wondering if digital were different?

--  
Sherrie VanConant, Director  
Bullock Creek Schools (989-631-2418 ext. 1511)  
Coleman Community Schools (989-465-1891 ext 2360)  
Food& Nutrition Programs  
[vanconas@bcreek.k12.mi.us](mailto:vanconas@bcreek.k12.mi.us) or 989-615-6491

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Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 13 50:46 -0400  
From: Barry Reese [CALC] <[breese@MAIL.COLLETON.K12.SC.US](mailto:breese@MAIL.COLLETON.K12.SC.US)>  
Subject: Plastic cutlery packs

Do any of you use a cutlery pack containing a medium weight spoon and fork and a napkin? If so would you send me the brand name and your cost, please and thanks?

Barry Reese SNS  
Foodservice Director  
Colleton County Schools  
609 Colleton Loop  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: 843-549-6642  
Fax: 843-549-2096  
[breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us](mailto:breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us)

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Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 12 55:27 -0500  
From: Charles Strong <[cstron@YAHOO.COM](mailto:cstron@YAHOO.COM)>  
Subject: Re: Plastic cutlery packs

Do you need it to be biodegradable ?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 29, 2012, at 12:50 PM, Barry Reese [CALC] <brees@MAIL.COLLETON.K12.SC.US> wrote:

> Do any of you use a cutlery pack containing a medium weight spoon and fork and a napkin? If so would you send me the brand name and your cost, please and thanks?

>

> Barry Reese SNS  
> Foodservice Director  
> Colleton County Schools  
> 609 Colleton Loop  
> Walterboro, SC 29488  
> Phone: 843-549-6642  
> Fax: 843-549-2096  
> bree@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us

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-----  
Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 17:59:56 +0000  
From: Hope Andrews <handrews@BPS.K12.IN.US>  
Subject: Re: Plastic cutlery packs

Gordon Food Service #426601 this kit contains a spork, straw, napkin (spork kit) \$18.79/case 1000/case

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Barry Reese [CALC]  
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:51 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [Mealtalk] Plastic cutlery packs

Do any of you use a cutlery pack containing a medium weight spoon and fork and a napkin? If so would you send me the brand name and your cost, please and thanks?

Barry Reese SNS  
Foodservice Director  
Colleton County Schools  
609 Colleton Loop  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: 843-549-6642  
Fax: 843-549-2096  
brees@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us<<mailto:brees@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us>>

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Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 14:01:26 -0400  
From: Barry Reese [CALC] <brees@MAIL.COLLETON.K12.SC.US>  
Subject: Re: Plastic cutlery packs

This message was originally HTML formatted. View in a HTML capable client to see the original version.\n\n\n No

Barry Reese SNS  
Foodservice Director  
Colleton County Schools  
609 Colleton Loop  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: 843-549-6642  
Fax: 843-549-2096  
brees@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us

----- Original Message -----  
From: "Charles Strong" cstron@YAHOO.COM  
Sent: 3/29/2012 9:59:55 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Plastic cutlery packs

Do you need it to be biodegradable ?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 29, 2012, at 12:50 PM, Barry Reese [CALC] breese@MAIL.COLLETON.K12.SC.US wrote:

Do any of you use a cutlery pack containing a medium weight spoon and fork and a napkin? If so would you send me the brand name and your cost, please and thanks?

Barry Reese SNS  
Foodservice Director  
Colleton County Schools  
609 Colleton Loop  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: 843-549-6642  
Fax: 843-549-2096  
breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us

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\*\*\*\*\*

-----

Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 14:12:03 -0400  
From: Barry Reese [CALC] <breese@MAIL.COLLETON.K12.SC.US>  
Subject: Re: Plastic cutlery packs

This message was originally HTML formatted. View in a HTML capable client to see the original version.\r\n\r\n I guess I should have added that I do not want sporks, as that is what I am trying to get rid of.

Barry Reese SNS  
Foodservice Director  
Colleton County Schools  
609 Colleton Loop  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: 843-549-6642  
Fax: 843-549-2096  
breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us

----- Original Message -----  
From: "Hope Andrews" handrews@BPS.K12.IN.US  
Sent: 3/29/2012 10:04:52 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Plastic cutlery packs

Gordon Food Service #426601 this kit contains a spork, straw, napkin (spork kit) \$18.79/case 1000/case

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Barry Reese [CALC]  
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:51 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [Mealtalk] Plastic cutlery packs

Do any of you use a cutlery pack containing a medium weight spoon and fork and a napkin? If so would you send me the brand name and your cost, please and thanks?

Barry Reese SNS  
Foodservice Director  
Colleton County Schools  
609 Colleton Loop  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: 843-549-6642  
Fax: 843-549-2096  
breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us

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-----  
Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 14:25:11 -0400  
From: Frank Rinaldi <frinaldi@NYCAP.RR.COM>  
Subject: Re: Plastic cutlery packs

Barry I just spoke with someone regarding those this week. Dawn if you're reading this do you still have the cost that you checked for me when we spoke about them?

Frank Rinaldi  
Slant consultants  
www.slantconsultants.com

On Mar 29, 2012, at 2:12 PM, Barry Reese [CALC]<breese@MAIL.COLLETON.K12.SC.US> wrote:

> I guess I should have added that I do not want sporks, as that is what I am trying to get rid of.

>  
> Barry Reese SNS  
> Foodservice Director  
> Colleton County Schools  
> 609 Colleton Loop  
> Walterboro, SC 29488  
> Phone: 843-549-6642  
> Fax: 843-549-2096  
> breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us

>

>

> ---- Original Message ----

> From: "Hope Andrews" <handrews@BPS.K12.IN.US>  
> Sent: 3/29/2012 10:04:52 PM  
> To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
> Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Plastic cutlery packs

>

> Gordon Food Service #426601 this kit contains a spork, straw, napkin (spork kit) \$18.79/case 1000/case

>

>

> From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Barry Reese [CALC]  
> Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:51 PM  
> To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
> Subject: [Mealtalk] Plastic cutlery packs

>

>

> Do any of you use a cutlery pack containing a medium weight spoon and fork and a napkin? If so would you send me the brand name and your cost, please and thanks?

>

> Barry Reese SNS  
> Foodservice Director  
> Colleton County Schools  
> 609 Colleton Loop  
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> Phone: 843-549-6642  
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\*\*\*\*\*

-----  
Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 18:32:42 +0000  
From: "Kinder, Jean" <kinderje@QPS.ORG>  
Subject: Re: Plastic cutlery packs

Do you want it to include all of the cutlery or just the individuals...

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Barry Reese [CALC]  
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:12 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Plastic cutlery packs

I guess I should have added that I do not want sporks, as that is what I am trying to get rid of.

Barry Reese SNS  
Foodservice Director  
Colleton County Schools  
609 Colleton Loop  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: 843-549-6642  
Fax: 843-549-2096  
breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us

----- Original Message -----  
From: "Hope Andrews" <handrews@BPS.K12.IN.US>  
Sent: 3/29/2012 10:04:52 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Plastic cutlery packs

Gordon Food Service #426601 this kit contains a spork, straw, napkin (spork kit) \$18.79/case 1000/case

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Barry Reese [CALC]  
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:51 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [Mealtalk] Plastic cutlery packs

Do any of you use a cutlery pack containing a medium weight spoon and fork and a napkin? If so would you send me the brand name and your cost, please and thanks?

Barry Reese SNS  
Foodservice Director  
Colleton County Schools  
609 Colleton Loop  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: 843-549-6642  
Fax: 843-549-2096  
breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us<<mailto:breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us>>

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\*\*\*\*\*

-----

Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 14:43:40 -0400  
From: Lynn Huggins <hugglynn@ATLANTICBB.NET>  
Subject: Re: Plastic cutlery packs

I don't use them, but found them in my purveyor's database - 500ct for \$21.11  
It is hard to find the spoon/fork/napkin without the knife.  
Email me privately if you want more ordering details.  
Lynn Huggins, DTR, FSD

On Thu, 29 Mar 2012 13 50:46 -0400  
Barry Reese [CALC] <breesee@MAIL.COLLETON.K12.SC.US><<mailto:breesee@MAIL.COLLETON.K12.SC.US>>> wrote:  
Do any of you use a cutlery pack containing a medium weight spoon and fork and a napkin? If so would you send me the brand name and your cost, please and thanks?

Barry Reese SNS  
Foodservice Director  
Colleton County Schools  
609 Colleton Loop  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
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Fax: 843-549-2096  
breesee@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us<<mailto:breesee@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us>>

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\*\*\*\*\*

-----

Date: Fri, 30 Mar 2012 08:22:04 -0400  
From: Dawn Boyes <dboyes@SCBOCES.ORG>  
Subject: Re: Plastic cutlery packs

Why yes! :) I got my ears on Good Buddy

I costed out the loss on a Small district - 660 ADP has spent \$3500. since September in metal wares...

There is a nice cutlery combo kits that I use at my other district- has a fork, spoon, straw and napkin for 500 ct at aprox \$.03 per

Cutlery Combo Kit: Medium Weight Plastic, Teaspoon, Fork, 10 x 12 Napkin and 6 Inch Straw. 500/case CASE NPP414025 Hill& Markes Bid price for DCMO bid \$15.50

Have a great day,  
Dawni

Dawn Boyes, SNS  
Food Service Director

SCBOCES and TVCS  
dboyes@scboces.org  
845-985-2296 ext 5526 TV  
845-295-4154 SCBOCES

If you do not feel yourself growing in your work and your life broadening and deepening, if your task is not a perpetual tonic to you, you have not found your place."

--Orison Swett Marden

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>>> On 3/29/2012 at 2:25 PM, Frank Rinaldi <frinaldi@NYCAP.RR.COM> wrote:

Barry I just spoke with someone regarding those this week. Dawn if you're reading this do you still have the cost that you checked for me when we spoke about them?

Frank Rinaldi  
Slant consultants  
www.slantconsultants.com

On Mar 29, 2012, at 2:12 PM, Barry Reese [CALC]<brees@MAIL.COLLETON.K12.SC.US> wrote:

I guess I should have added that I do not want sporks, as that is what I am trying to get rid of.

Barry Reese SNS  
Foodservice Director  
Colleton County Schools  
609 Colleton Loop  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: 843-549-6642  
Fax: 843-549-2096  
brees@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us

----- Original Message -----

From: "Hope Andrews" <handrews@BPS.K12.IN.US>  
Sent: 3/29/2012 10:04:52 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Plastic cutlery packs

Gordon Food Service #426601 this kit contains a spork, straw, napkin (spork kit) \$18.79/case 1000/case

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Barry Reese [CALC]  
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:51 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [Mealtalk] Plastic cutlery packs

Do any of you use a cutlery pack containing a medium weight spoon and fork and a napkin? If so would you send me the brand name and your cost, please and thanks?

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-----  
Date: Fri, 30 Mar 2012 08:52:12 -0400  
From: Sue Birmingham HS <[sbirmingham@FRONTIER.WNYRIC.ORG](mailto:sbirmingham@FRONTIER.WNYRIC.ORG)>  
Subject: Re: Plastic cutlery packs

I use the spork packet. But off of our cooperative bid the cutlery kit (fork, tsp, napkin, straw), med wt, 500/cs is \$14.50/cs through our local paper distributor. If you need the mfg let me know and I will contact them.

Susan J. Birmingham, CFE  
Food Service Director  
Frontier Central Schools  
S-4432 Bayview Road  
Hamburg, NY 14075  
716-926-1702  
Fax- 716-649-1482

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-----  
Date: Fri, 30 Mar 2012 08:54:20 -0400  
From: Sherrie VanConant <[vanconas@BCREEK.K12.MI.US](mailto:vanconas@BCREEK.K12.MI.US)>  
Subject: Re: Plastic cutlery packs

On 3/29/2012 2:25 PM, Frank Rinaldi wrote:

> Barry I just spoke with someone regarding those this week. Dawn if  
> you're reading this do you still have the cost that you checked for me  
> when we spoke about them?

>

> Frank Rinaldi

> Slant consultants

> [www.slantconsultants.com](http://www.slantconsultants.com) <<http://www.slantconsultants.com>>

>

> On Mar 29, 2012, at 2:12 PM, Barry Reese

> [CALC]<[breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us](mailto:breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us)>

> <<mailto:breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us>>> wrote:

>

>> I guess I should have added that I do not want sporks, as that is

>> what I am trying to get rid of.

>>

>> Barry Reese SNS

>> Foodservice Director

>> Colleton County Schools

>> 609 Colleton Loop

>> Walterboro, SC 29488

>> Phone: 843-549-6642

>> Fax: 843-549-2096

>> [breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us](mailto:breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us) <<mailto:breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us>>

>>

>>

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: "Hope Andrews" <[handrews@BPS.K12.IN.US](mailto:handrews@BPS.K12.IN.US)>

>> <<mailto:handrews@BPS.K12.IN.US>>>

>> Sent: 3/29/2012 10:04:52 PM

>> To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV <<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>

>> Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Plastic cutlery packs

>>

>> Gordon Food Service #426601 this kit contains a spork, straw, napkin

>> (spork kit) \$18.79/case 1000/case

>>

>> \*From:\* Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs

>> [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] \*On Behalf Of \*Barry Reese [CALC]

>> \*Sent:\* Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:51 PM

>> \*To:\* Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV <<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>

>> \*Subject:\* [Mealtalk] Plastic cutlery packs

>>

>> Do any of you use a cutlery pack containing a medium weight spoon and

>> fork and a napkin? If so would you send me the brand name and your

>> cost, please and thanks?

>>

>> Barry Reese SNS

>> Foodservice Director

>> Colleton County Schools

>> 609 Colleton Loop

>> Walterboro, SC 29488

>> Phone: 843-549-6642

>> Fax: 843-549-2096

>> [breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us](mailto:breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us) <<mailto:breese@mail.colleton.k12.sc.us>>

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>> \*\*\*\*\*

I have a Dixie product that I started last year in our middle and high school, it's a knife, fork and spoon dispenser. the kids were wasting lots of silverware by pulling them out of the containers and I didn't feel they were sanitary. We switched to these and they are wall mounted. work great, less waste and I did the same with napkins in the xpress napkin holders we use so much less product. just a thought.

sherrie~

--  
Sherrie VanConant, Director  
Bullock Creek Schools (989-631-2418 ext. 1511)  
Coleman Community Schools (989-465-1891 ext 2360)  
Food& Nutrition Programs  
vanconas@bcreek.k12.mi.us or 989-615-6491

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\*\*\*\*\*

-----  
Date: Fri, 30 Mar 2012 15:09:25 -0400  
From: Paul Schmid <paul-schmid@ESASD.NET>  
Subject: 100% Juice contribution

Hi everyone,

Need some guidance, please.

On page 93 under Summary of the Final Meal Requirements I need some clarification on the 100% fruit juice contribution in the K-5 and 6-8 grade lunch categories:

Amount of Food per Week allows us to offer ½ cup Fruit ( c ) each day or 2 ½ cups. ( c ) states no more than half of the fruit or vegetable group may be in the form of juice

Does this mean I can offer ½ cup juice and it equals a ½ cup of juice;

Or does this mean I can offer ½ cup juice with other fruit selections but must have less than ½ of those offering be 100% juice...so if I have 3 fruit type offered, let us say oranges, apples and bananas I could have 2- 100% juice offerings;

Or does this mean I can count only 100% juice as a ½ cup serving in these categories only ½ the time during a 5 day week period ;

Or does this mean that the 100% juice counts only as a ¼ c in these 2 grade categories...which would make no sense at all either financially or logically;

Or is there another interpretation which I am missing altogether.

I have asked several prominent directors and they are under the impression that it equals ½ cup juice. However, since this is so vaguely written and open to interpretation I need some help.

Has USDA given guidance on this and if so what is their interpretation?

Thanks for your help.

Have a great weekend.

Paul  
Paul Harvey Schmid, SNS  
Food Services Director  
East Stroudsburg Area School District  
East Stroudsburg, PA  
570-424-8500 xtn 1420  
570-656-2147 (cell)  
paul-schmid@esasd.net< <mailto:paul-schmid@esasd.net>>

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\*\*\*\*\*

-----  
Date: Fri, 30 Mar 2012 15:54:12 -0400  
From: Megan Schaper <mas15@SCASD.ORG>  
Subject: Re: 100% Juice contribution

Hi Paul,

At the director's retreat earlier this week, Vonda said that ½ cup of juice is ½ cup of fruit, but can only count for ½ of the total fruit choice...so, at the HS, it can be ½ cup of the 1 cup requirement. But, at the elem/ms it can only count as ¼ cup.

It doesn't make sense. I'm hoping that by the time we get official training, they've come up with a different interpretation.

There is no reason to offer juice at the elem/ms level if this really is how the reg will be interpreted. I know that juice is to be a limited food item and some people would be glad to see it not offered, but I still see it as better than nothing if they actually will consume it.

Megan Schaper, SNS

Food Service Director

State College Area School District

Food Service Department

650 Westerly Parkway

State College, PA 16801

phone: 814-231-5093

fax: 814-231-5444

email: mas15@scasd.org

cid:image001.jpg@01CCA438.2326A200

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov] On Behalf Of Paul Schmid  
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 3:09 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [Mealtalk] 100% Juice contribution

Hi everyone,

Need some guidance, please.

On page 93 under Summary of the Final Meal Requirements I need some clarification on the 100% fruit juice contribution in the K-5 and 6-8 grade lunch categories:

Amount of Food per Week allows us to offer ½ cup Fruit ( c ) each day or 2 ½ cups. ( c ) states no more than half of the fruit or vegetable group may be in the form of juice

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Or does this mean I can count only 100% juice as a ½ cup serving in these categories only ½ the time during a 5 day week period ;

Or does this mean that the 100% juice counts only as a ¼ c in these 2 grade categories...which would make no sense at all either financially or logically;

Or is there another interpretation which I am missing altogether.

I have asked several prominent directors and they are under the impression that it equals ½ cup juice. However, since this is so vaguely written and open to interpretation I need some help.

Has USDA given guidance on this and if so what is their interpretation?

Thanks for your help.

Have a great weekend.

Paul

Paul Harvey Schmid, SNS

Food Services Director

East Stroudsburg Area School District

East Stroudsburg, PA

570-424-8500 xtn 1420

570-656-2147 (cell)

paul-schmid@esasd.net

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Date: Fri, 30 Mar 2012 15:01:49 -0700  
From: Jennifer Gerard <jgerard@MPUSD.K12.CA.US>  
Subject: Re: 100% Juice contribution

And this is applicable to both Breakfast & Lunch? Or just lunch at this time?

On Fri, Mar 30, 2012 at 12:54 PM, Megan Schaper <mas15@scasd.org> wrote:

> Hi Paul,\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \*\* \*\*  
>  
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> juice is ½ cup of fruit, but can only count for ½ of the total fruit  
> choice...so, at the HS, it can be ½ cup of the 1 cup requirement. But, at  
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> it as better than nothing if they actually will consume it.\*\*\*\*  
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> \*\*\*\*  
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> \*\* \*\*  
>  
> Megan Schaper, SNS\*\*\*\*  
>  
> Food Service Director\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \*\* \*\*  
>  
> State College Area School District\*\*\*\*  
>  
> Food Service Department\*\*\*\*  
>  
> 650 Westerly Parkway\*\*\*\*  
>  
> State College, PA 16801\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \*\* \*\*  
>  
> phone: 814-231-5093\*\*\*\*  
>  
> fax: 814-231-5444\*\*\*\*  
>  
> email: mas15@scasd.org\*\*\*\*  
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> \*\* \*\*  
>  
> [image: cid:image001.jpg@01CCA438.2326A200]\*\*\*\*  
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> \*\* \*\*  
>  
> \*From:\* Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
> [mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov] \*On Behalf Of \*Paul Schmid  
> \*Sent:\* Friday, March 30, 2012 3:09 PM  
> \*To:\* Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
> \*Subject:\* [Mealtalk] 100% Juice contribution\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \*\* \*\*  
>  
> \*Hi everyone,\*\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \* \*\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \*Need some guidance, please.\*\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \* \*\*\*\*\*  
>  
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>  
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>  
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> or 2 ½ cups. (c) states no more than half of the fruit or vegetable  
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>  
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> \* \*\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \*Thanks for your help.\*\*\*\*\*  
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> \* \*\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \*Have a great weekend.\*\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \* \*\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \*Paul\*\*\*\*\*  
>  
> Paul Harvey Schmid, SNS\*\*\*\*\*  
> Food Services Director\*\*\*\*  
> East Stroudsburg Area School District\*\*\*\*  
> East Stroudsburg, PA\*\*\*\*  
> 570-424-8500 xtn 1420\*\*\*\*  
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--  
Jenn Gerard, RD  
Director of Nutrition Services  
Monterey Peninsula Unified School District  
office: (831) 645-1266  
cell: (831) 901-7410

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End of Mealtalk Digest - 25 Mar 2012 to 30 Mar 2012 - Special issue (#2012-25)

\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [Mealtalk listserv](#) on behalf of [NAL Listserv](#)  
**To:** [Mealtalk@echidna.NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@echidna.NAL.USDA.GOV)  
**Bcc:** [FSIS Outreach](#)  
**Subject:** Mealtalk Digest - 6 Mar 2012 to 7 Mar 2012 - Special Issue (#2012-13)  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 11:23:23 AM

---

There are 16 messages totaling 10241 lines in this issue.

Topics in this special issue:

1. Frozen chicken leg quarters available through USDA Foods (3)
2. Meals Plus
3. Cinnamon Challenge Dangers
4. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
5. This is disgusting (10)

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Date: Tue, 6 Mar 2012 11:16:15 -0600  
From: Charlie Ferrigno <[cferrigno@ELCHO.K12.WI.US](mailto:cferrigno@ELCHO.K12.WI.US)>  
Subject: Re: Frozen chicken leg quarters available through USDA Foods

are your chicken nuggets antibiotic free

-----  
From: Sheilah Davidson, School Food FOCUS [<mailto:sdavidson@SCHOOLFOODFOCUS.ORG>]  
To: [Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV)  
Sent: Tue, 06 Mar 2012 09:32:14 -0600  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Frozen chicken leg quarters available through USDA Foods

Hi Laura!

This product is not antibiotic free. We did work with Whole Foods and Chicago Public Schools to also purchase antibiotic free chicken for the district from a local Amish cooperative in Indiana. More info on the purchase is here:

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs024/1102701457366/archive/1108486812272.html> Scroll down to the article about the Chicago purchase of chicken.

Here is a summary of what we've learned comparing chicken raised with and without the use of antibiotics.

<http://www.schoolfoodfocus.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/HHIF-FOCUS-chicken-RFP->



[10.31.11.pdf](#)

In a nutshell, we've learned that there are no health risks to the individual consuming chicken raised with antibiotics, the dangers are environmental, mostly related to the development of antibiotic-resistant strains of diseases.

On Mar 6, 2012, at 10:18 AM, Laura Warren wrote:

Hi Sheilah:

Is there more information on this product? Is it antibiotic free and if so I was hoping to find more information on the product to share with our purchasing agent/ and schools ? I searched on the USDA web site and found nothing other than the list of products for September. Thanks

Laura Warren, M.S.,R, D.

--- On Mon, 3/5/12, Sheilah Davidson, School Food FOCUS <[sdavidson@SCHOOLFOODFOCUS.ORG](mailto:sdavidson@SCHOOLFOODFOCUS.ORG)> wrote:

From: Sheilah Davidson, School Food FOCUS <[sdavidson@SCHOOLFOODFOCUS.ORG](mailto:sdavidson@SCHOOLFOODFOCUS.ORG)>

Subject: [Mealtalk] Frozen chicken leg quarters available through USDA Foods

To: [Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV)

Date: Monday, March 5, 2012, 3:27 PM

I wanted make sure that school food professionals know that uncooked frozen chicken leg quarters (WBSCM code # 100105) are now available via USDA Foods. They are in the WBSCM catalog for deliveries from September 15, 2012 through May 2013. Orders are due 5/14/12. Chicago Public Schools pioneered this purchase this school year. Chicago and Saint Paul Public Schools have both produced training videos to help teach staff safe handling techniques. Feel free to contact me off list if you have any questions.

---

Sheilah Davidson

Policy Program Manager and Stakeholder Liaison [sdavidson@schoolfoodfocus.org](mailto:sdavidson@schoolfoodfocus.org)

845 339-2824

School Food FOCUS

Public Health Solutions

40 Worth Street, Floor 5

New York, NY 10013 <http://www.schoolfoodfocus.org/>

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School Food FOCUS is a national collaborative that leverages the knowledge and procurement power of large school districts to make school meals nationwide more healthful, regionally sourced, and sustainably produced. FOCUS aims to transform food systems to support students' academic achievement and lifelong health, while directly benefiting farmers, regional economies, and the environment.

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Sheilah Davidson

Policy Program Manager and Stakeholder Liaisonsdavidson@schoolfoodfocus.org

845 339-2824

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Date: Tue, 6 Mar 2012 12:24:10 -0500  
From: "Sheilah Davidson, School Food FOCUS" <sdavidson@SCHOOLFOODFOCUS.ORG>  
Subject: Re: Frozen chicken leg quarters available through USDA Foods

The information I have is about frozen chicken leg quarters offered through USDA Foods. I don't know about chicken nuggets.

On Mar 6, 2012, at 12:16 PM, Charlie Ferrigno wrote:

> are your chicken nuggets antibiotic free  
> From: Sheilah Davidson, School Food FOCUS [<mailto:sdavidson@SCHOOLFOODFOCUS.ORG>]  
> To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
> Sent: Tue, 06 Mar 2012 09:32:14 -0600  
> Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Frozen chicken leg quarters available through USDA Foods  
>  
> Hi Laura!  
>  
> This product is not antibiotic free. We did work with Whole Foods and Chicago Public Schools to also purchase antibiotic free chicken for the district from a local Amish cooperative in Indiana. More info on

the purchase is here:

> <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs024/1102701457366/archive/1108486812272.html> Scroll down to the article about the Chicago purchase of chicken.

>

> Here is a summary of what we've learned comparing chicken raised with and without the use of antibiotics.

>

> <http://www.schoolfoodfocus.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/HHIF-FOCUS-chicken-RFP-10.31.11.pdf>

>

> In a nutshell, we've learned that there are no health risks to the individual consuming chicken raised with antibiotics, the dangers are environmental, mostly related to the development of antibiotic-resistant strains of diseases.

>

>

> On Mar 6, 2012, at 10:18 AM, Laura Warren wrote:

>

>> Hi Sheilah:

>> Is there more information on this product? Is it antibiotic free and if so I was hoping to find more information on the product to share with our purchasing agent/ and schools ? I searched on the USDA web site and found nothing other than the list of products for September. Thanks

>>

>> Laura Warren, M.S.,R, D.

>>

>>

>>

>> --- On Mon, 3/5/12, Sheilah Davidson, School Food FOCUS <[sdavidson@SCHOOLFOODFOCUS.ORG](mailto:sdavidson@SCHOOLFOODFOCUS.ORG)> wrote:

>>

>> From: Sheilah Davidson, School Food FOCUS <[sdavidson@SCHOOLFOODFOCUS.ORG](mailto:sdavidson@SCHOOLFOODFOCUS.ORG)>

>> Subject: [Mealtalk] Frozen chicken leg quarters available through USDA Foods

>> To: [Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV)

>> Date: Monday, March 5, 2012, 3:27 PM

>>

>>

>>> I wanted make sure that school food professionals know that uncooked frozen chicken leg quarters (WBSCM code # 100105) are now available via USDA Foods. They are in the WBSCM catalog for deliveries from September 15, 2012 through May 2013. Orders are due 5/14/12. Chicago Public Schools pioneered this purchase this school year. Chicago and Saint Paul Public Schools have both produced training videos to help teach staff safe handling techniques. Feel free to contact me off list if you have any questions.

>>>

>>

>> ---

>> Sheilah Davidson

>> Policy Program Manager and Stakeholder Liaison

>> [sdavidson@schoolfoodfocus.org](mailto:sdavidson@schoolfoodfocus.org)

>> 845 339-2824

>>

>> School Food FOCUS

>> Public Health Solutions

>> 40 Worth Street, Floor 5

>> New York, NY 10013

>> <http://www.schoolfoodfocus.org/>

>>

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>

> ---

> Sheilah Davidson

> Policy Program Manager and Stakeholder Liaison

> sdavidson@schoolfoodfocus.org

> 845 339-2824

>

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Policy Program Manager and Stakeholder Liaison  
sdavidson@schoolfoodfocus.org  
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\*\*\*\*\*

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Date: Tue, 6 Mar 2012 09:29:04 -0800  
From: Laura Warren <maggie737@YAHOO.COM>  
Subject: Re: Frozen chicken leg quarters available through USDA Foods

Hi Sheilah:  
Thank you for your quick response. I will look into your link with Chicago public schools.

Laura Warren, M.S., R.D.

--- On Tue, 3/6/12, Sheilah Davidson, School Food FOCUS <sdavidson@SCHOOLFOODFOCUS.ORG> wrote:

From: Sheilah Davidson, School Food FOCUS <sdavidson@SCHOOLFOODFOCUS.ORG>  
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Date: Tuesday, March 6, 2012, 10:32 AM

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Sheilah Davidson

Policy Program Manager and Stakeholder Liaisons [davidson@schoolfoodfocus.org](mailto:davidson@schoolfoodfocus.org)

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Date: Tue, 6 Mar 2012 12:54:20 -0500  
From: Paula Duchano <pduchano@SAU53.ORG>  
Subject: Re: Meals Plus

We've had MealsPlus for about 10 years. We are a small school serving about 250-300/day. It works very well for us. Customer support is very accessible and very helpful when needed .  
I'd be glad to answer specifically if they contact me directly,  
Paula  
Pduchano@sau53.org

Paula C. Duchano  
Food Service Director  
Deerfield Community School  
66 North Road  
Deerfield, NH 03037  
603 463-7422 x351  
fax 603 463-2839

>>> SUSAN BRUNNER <BRUSUS@EASTTROY.K12.WI.US> 3/5/2012 3:02 PM >>>

Are any of you using Meals Plus for your POS system? I know of someone will be looking at a demo of it tomorrow. I am not familiar with it. We use Skyward. Any suggestions I can give them. They are a smaller school just beginning with computers in the Food Service Dept.

Thanks,

Sue Brunner  
Director of Food Service  
(262) 642-6760 ext. 5302  
brusus@easttroy.k12.wi.us

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 08:00:19 -0500  
From: "Sincok, Terri" <TerriSincok@HARTLANDSCHOOLS.US>  
Subject: Cinnamon Challenge Dangers

A week or so ago someone asked about the Cinnamon Challenge that is going around on you-tube our local TV station just did a report on the dangers of this challenge the link is below.

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/lifestyle/health/Dangers-of-the-Cinnamon-Challenge/-/2300442/9235700/-/m98889z/-/index.html>

Terri Sincok  
Food Service Director  
Hartland Consolidated Schools  
Phone: 810-626-2867  
Fax: 810-626-2869

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 07:18:18 -0600  
From: "Tammy L. Yarmon" <Tammy.Yarmon@OPS.ORG>  
Subject: Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Hi....

If your school district practices IPM, would you please contact me? Thanks...Tammy

\*\*\*\*\*

Tammy Yarmon, Director  
Nutrition Services  
Omaha Public Schools  
402-557-2225  
Tammy.Yarmon@ops.org <<mailto:Tammy.Yarmon@ops.org>>  
\*\*\*\*\*

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 10:15:41 -0500  
From: "John R. Overcash Jr" <[jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG](mailto:jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG)>  
Subject: This is disgusting

<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>

My wife told me about this and I was horrified. I couldn't believe that given the current emphasis on school meals that the USDA would allow such a practice (not that I would doubt my wife mind you). Don't we already have enough issues to try to fight? Now we find out that not only are we feeding the children meat that formerly was classified as pet food, it is being treated with a chemical that is highly caustic and dangerous...

John

John Overcash, SNS  
Food Service Director  
Littleton Public Schools  
c/o Littleton Middle School  
55 Russell Street  
Littleton, MA 01460  
Cell: 978.771.8620  
office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243  
fax: 978.952.4547

e-mail: jovercash@littletonps.org<<mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org>>

[cid:image001.jpg@01CCFC4A.E551BB20]

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 15:20:12 +0000  
From: Trieste Chiquete <[Trieste.Chiquete@CORONADO.K12.CA.US](mailto:Trieste.Chiquete@CORONADO.K12.CA.US)>  
Subject: Re: This is disgusting

John- is there a way to find out which manufacturers are using "pink slime" or would it be labeled a specific way?

Trieste Chiquete, MS  
Director, Child Nutrition  
Coronado Unified School District  
201 6th Ave. Coronado, Ca 92118  
619-522-8907 ext. 2085  
619-602-4444 (cell)  
[trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us](mailto:trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us)

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of John R. Overcash Jr  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:16 AM  
To: [Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV)  
Subject: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
Importance: High

<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>

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Food Service Director  
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c/o Littleton Middle School  
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Cell: 978.771.8620  
office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243  
fax: 978.952.4547  
e-mail: jovercash@littletonps.org<<mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org>>

[cid:image001.jpg@01CCFC32.BC16D8C0]

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 10:29:27 -0500  
From: Carole Ellis <CEllis@BRYAN.K12.GA.US>  
Subject: Re: This is disgusting

The article I read also stated that this "slime" is in most ground beef (not just patties) sold in grocery stores!

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Trieste Chiquete  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:20 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

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trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us< <mailto:trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us>>

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of John R. Overcash Jr  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:16 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
Importance: High

<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>

My wife told me about this and I was horrified. I couldn't believe that given the current emphasis on school meals that the USDA would allow such a practice (not that I would doubt my wife mind you). Don't we already have enough issues to try to fight? Now we find out that not only are we feeding the children meat that formerly was classified as pet food, it is being treated with a chemical that is highly caustic and dangerous...

John

John Overcash, SNS  
Food Service Director  
Littleton Public Schools  
c/o Littleton Middle School  
55 Russell Street  
Littleton, MA 01460  
Cell: 978.771.8620  
office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243  
fax: 978.952.4547  
e-mail: jovercash@littletonps.org<<mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org>>

[cid:image001.jpg@01CCFC4D.2CBE1D80]

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-----  
Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 15:31:55 +0000  
From: "Squibb, Teresa" <tsquibb@TUSTIN.K12.CA.US>  
Subject: Re: This is disgusting

I also read, from other sources, that this meat is used in a lot of ground beef sold to fast food, grocery stores and commodities... funny that the story has only focused on school lunches... best way to get shock value?

teresa

Teresa Squibb, MS, SNS  
Tustin Unified School District  
Director, Nutrition Services  
(714) 730-7301 x396  
(714) 730-7397 (fax)  
tsquibb@tustin.k12.ca.us  
From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Carole Ellis  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:29 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

The article I read also stated that this "slime" is in most ground beef (not just patties) sold in grocery stores!

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Trieste Chiquete  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:20 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV<<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

John- is there a way to find out which manufacturers are using "pink slime" or would it be labeled a specific way?

Trieste Chiquete, MS  
Director, Child Nutrition  
Coronado Unified School District  
201 6th Ave. Coronado, Ca 92118  
619-522-8907 ext. 2085  
619-602-4444 (cell)  
trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us<<mailto:trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us>>

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e-mail: jovercash@littletonps.org<<mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org>>

[cid:image001.jpg@01CCFC34.6DA4AF30]

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 10:39:47 -0500  
From: "John R. Overcash Jr" <jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG>  
Subject: Re: This is disgusting

I'm sure there is, I'm checking on that now.

John Overcash, SNS

Food Service Director

Littleton Public Schools

c/o Littleton Middle School

55 Russell Street

Littleton, MA 01460

Cell: 978.771.8620

office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243

fax: 978.952.4547

e-mail: [jovercash@littletonps.org](mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org)

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[<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Trieste Chiquete  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:20 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

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Trieste Chiquete, MS  
Director, Child Nutrition  
Coronado Unified School District  
201 6th Ave. Coronado, Ca 92118  
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619-602-4444 (cell)  
[trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us](mailto:trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us)

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Subject: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
Importance: High

<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>

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-----  
Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 15:33:58 +0000  
From: Scott Germain <sgermain@GA.K12.MD.US>

Subject: Re: This is disgusting

I received this article this morning. It has a little more detail.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/05/pink-slime-for-school-lun\\_n\\_1322325.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/05/pink-slime-for-school-lun_n_1322325.html)

Scott Germain

Food & Nutrition Program Manager

Garrett County Board of Education

40 South 2nd Street

Oakland, MD 21550

Phone- 301-334-8917

Fax - 301-334-7621

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Squibb, Teresa

Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:32 AM

To: [Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV)

Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

I also read, from other sources, that this meat is used in a lot of ground beef sold to fast food, grocery stores and commodities... funny that the story has only focused on school lunches... best way to get shock value?

teresa

Teresa Squibb, MS, SNS

Tustin Unified School District

Director, Nutrition Services

(714) 730-7301 x396

(714) 730-7397 (fax)

[tsquibb@tustin.k12.ca.us](mailto:tsquibb@tustin.k12.ca.us)<<mailto:tsquibb@tustin.k12.ca.us>>

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Carole Ellis

Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:29 AM

To: [Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV)<<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>

Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

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From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Trieste Chiquete

Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:20 AM

To: [Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV)<<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>

Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

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Director, Child Nutrition

Coronado Unified School District

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619-602-4444 (cell)

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 10:50:53 -0500  
From: "John R. Overcash Jr" <jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG>  
Subject: Re: This is disgusting

The article did mention that McDonalds has stopped using ground beef that contains pink slime.

Be interested to know if the ground beef produced at a grocery store could or does contain this pink slime. I don't buy commercially premade burgers or the tubes of ground beef often sold in grocery stores any way. Of course with the price of ground beef, if you have a meat grinder or spend a few bucks and invest in one it wouldn't be that much more expensive (or even cheaper if you bought your meat on special) to grind your own at least for home...

John Overcash, SNS

Food Service Director

Littleton Public Schools

c/o Littleton Middle School

55 Russell Street

Littleton, MA 01460

Cell: 978.771.8620

office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243

fax: 978.952.4547

e-mail: jovercash@littletonps.org

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The article I read also stated that this "slime" is in most ground beef (not just patties) sold in grocery stores!

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Trieste Chiquete  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:20 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

John- is there a way to find out which manufacturers are using "pink slime" or would it be labeled a specific way?

Trieste Chiquete, MS  
Director, Child Nutrition  
Coronado Unified School District  
201 6th Ave. Coronado, Ca 92118  
619-522-8907 ext. 2085  
619-602-4444 (cell)  
trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of John R. Overcash Jr  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:16 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
Importance: High

<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>

My wife told me about this and I was horrified. I couldn't believe that given the current emphasis on school meals that the USDA would allow such a practice (not that I would doubt my wife mind you). Don't we already have enough issues to try to fight? Now we find out that not only are we feeding the children meat that formerly was classified as pet food, it is being treated with a chemical that is highly caustic and dangerous.

John

John Overcash, SNS  
Food Service Director  
Littleton Public Schools  
c/o Littleton Middle School  
55 Russell Street  
Littleton, MA 01460

Cell: 978.771.8620

office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243

fax: 978.952.4547

e-mail: jovercash@littletonps.org

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 09:45:11 -0600  
From: Anna Wolk <awolk@JOHNSBURG12.ORG>  
Subject: Re: This is disgusting

How do we know this is fact and not more hype from the Jamie Oliver camp? I just don't want to panic and jump on the band wagon if this is unfounded...

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2012, at 9:15 AM, "John R. Overcash Jr" <jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG> wrote:

> <http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>

>

>

> My wife told me about this and I was horrified. I couldn't believe that given the current emphasis on school meals that the USDA would allow such a practice (not that I would doubt my wife mind you). Don't we already have enough issues to try to fight? Now we find out that not only are we feeding the children meat that formerly was classified as pet food, it is being treated with a chemical that is highly caustic and dangerous...

>

> John

>

> John Overcash, SNS  
> Food Service Director  
> Littleton Public Schools  
> c/o Littleton Middle School  
> 55 Russell Street  
> Littleton, MA 01460  
> Cell: 978.771.8620  
> office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243  
> fax: 978.952.4547  
> e-mail: jovercash@littletonps.org

>

> <image001.jpg>

>

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 11:18:37 -0500

From: Mark Ott <mott@BEASD.ORG>

Subject: Re: This is disgusting

I checked on Snopes.com. It is a mixture of fact and fiction but generally true. They also have a video of our boy Jamie O. showing students how it is made.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Anna Wolk

Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:45 AM

To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV

Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

How do we know this is fact and not more hype from the Jamie Oliver camp? I just don't want to panic and jump on the band wagon if this is unfounded...

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2012, at 9:15 AM, "John R. Overcash Jr" <jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG> wrote:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>

My wife told me about this and I was horrified. I couldn't believe that given the current emphasis on school meals that the USDA would allow such a practice (not that I would doubt my wife mind you). Don't we already have enough issues to try to fight? Now we find out that not only are we feeding the children meat that formerly was classified as pet food, it is being treated with a chemical that is highly caustic and dangerous...



John

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<image001.jpg>

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 08:16:36 -0800  
From: Toni Lindeleaf <tonil@WAWONA.COM>  
Subject: Re: This is disgusting

My suggestion is that everyone take some time and venture over to the USDA AMS Commodity purchasing website and actually look at the product specifications of the items being purchased by USDA. There are very strict standards and are continuously working with manufacturers and producers to purchase the healthiest products possible. The products purchased on behalf of the National School meal programs are not just excess substandard products. They are freshly produced for each USDA solicitations that are awarded.

If commercial foods are purchased you all are writing your own product specifications and have control over those items from a commercial distributor or from manufacture direct purchases.

Pink Slime!!!!!!!!!! I would worry more about the foods and how they are produced in the regular grocery store than what is purchased and served in schools.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Anna Wolk  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:45 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

How do we know this is fact and not more hype from the Jamie Oliver camp? I just don't want to panic and jump on the band wagon if this is unfounded...

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2012, at 9:15 AM, "John R. Overcash Jr" <jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG> wrote:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>

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End of Mealtalk Digest - 6 Mar 2012 to 7 Mar 2012 - Special issue (#2012-13)

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**From:** [Mealtalk listserv](#) on behalf of [NAL Listserv](#)  
**To:** [Mealtalk@echidna.NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@echidna.NAL.USDA.GOV)  
**Bcc:** [FSIS Outreach](#)  
**Subject:** Mealtalk Digest - 7 Mar 2012 to 8 Mar 2012 - Special issue (#2012-14)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:01:59 AM

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There are 22 messages totaling 10099 lines in this issue.

Topics in this special issue:

1. This is disgusting (4)
2. new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable (9)
3. [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting (2)
4. [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting (2)
5. Ammoniated beef (2)
6. [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] Ammoniated beef
7. Interesting to know. (2)

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 16:25:30 +0000  
From: "Aubin, Brian" <[baubin@CROSBYISD.ORG](mailto:baubin@CROSBYISD.ORG)>  
Subject: Re: This is disgusting

<http://www.snopes.com/food/prepare/msm.asp>

Brian Aubin  
Director of Child Nutrition Services  
Crosby I.S.D.  
706 Runneburg Rd.  
Crosby, TX 77532  
Phone: 281-328-9200 Ext: 1250  
Fax: 281-328-9240  
[baubin@crosbyisd.org](mailto:baubin@crosbyisd.org)<<mailto:baubin@crosbyisd.org>>

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Toni Lindeleaf  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:17 AM  
To: [Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV)  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

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From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Anna Wolk  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:45 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

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Sent from my iPhone

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<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>

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<image001.jpg>

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 16:29:29 +0000  
From: Scott Germain <[sgermain@GA.K12.MD.US](mailto:sgermain@GA.K12.MD.US)>  
Subject: Re: This is disgusting

I just received this from our state department

Below is information from the Department regarding lean finely textured beef. I know many of you have been getting questions from states/school districts and hope this information is helpful in responding.

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP), administered by the USDA, purchases approximately 20 percent of the products served in schools across the country. In other words, the majority, approximately 80 percent, is purchased by schools or school districts directly through private vendors and not USDA. In its role as the purchasing agent, to quantify how much of a particular product purchased by USDA is served in specific school districts or specific schools is difficult to measure and depends upon a case by case or even school-by-school basis. Procurement officials for schools may have this information.

Since the early 1990s, Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) has been allowed as a component of the ground beef purchased by USDA for distribution through the NSLP. The maximum allowable percentage of LFTB that may be formulated into single servings of the ground beef purchased for the NSLP is 15 percent, which is similar to the composition found in many commercially available ground beef products. USDA does not purchase LFTB directly. Rather, LFTB may be used as a raw material in USDA-purchased ground beef products after it undergoes stringent testing. Of the ground beef purchased by USDA in 2011 for the NSLP, LFTB comprised approximately 6.5 percent of the total volume.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration as well as the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) considers ammonium hydroxide as "generally recognized as safe." FSIS reviewed the suitability of Beef Products, Inc.'s (BPI) use of ammonium hydroxide in order to assess its effectiveness in performing the intended technical purpose of use, at the lowest level necessary, and to ensure that the product is not adulterated or misleading to consumers.

All USDA beef purchases for the NSLP and other Federal food and nutrition assistance programs meet very high food safety standards, which include stringent pathogen testing. Beef supplied by BPI as a component of the beef products purchased by USDA for the NSLP is subject to the same strict pathogen testing requirements for beef raw ingredients.

Additional information on this product or product specific inquiries should be directed to BPI at <http://www.beefproducts.com/>.

Scott Germain  
Food & Nutrition Program Manager  
Garrett County Board of Education  
40 South 2nd Street  
Oakland, MD 21550  
Phone- 301-334-8917  
Fax - 301-334-7621  
From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Aubin, Brian  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 11:26 AM  
To: [Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV)  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

<http://www.snopes.com/food/prepare/msm.asp>

Brian Aubin  
Director of Child Nutrition Services  
Crosby I.S.D.  
706 Runneburg Rd.  
Crosby, TX 77532  
Phone: 281-328-9200 Ext: 1250  
Fax: 281-328-9240  
[baubin@crosbyisd.org](mailto:baubin@crosbyisd.org) <<mailto:baubin@crosbyisd.org>>

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Toni Lindeleaf  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:17 AM  
To: [Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV) <<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

My suggestion is that everyone take some time and venture over to the USDA AMS Commodity purchasing website and actually look at the product specifications of the items being purchased by USDA. There are very strict standards and are continuously working with manufacturers and producers to purchase the healthiest products possible. The products purchased on behalf of the National School meal programs are not just excess substandard products. They are freshly produced for each USDA solicitations that are awarded.

If commercial foods are purchased you all are writing your own product specifications and have control over those items from a commercial distributor or from manufacture direct purchases.

Pink Slime!!!!!!!!!!!! I would worry more about the foods and how they are produced in the regular grocery store than what is purchased and served in schools.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Anna Wolk  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:45 AM  
To: [Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV) <<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

How do we know this is fact and not more hype from the Jamie Oliver camp? I just don't want to panic and jump on the band wagon if this is unfounded...



Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2012, at 9:15 AM, "John R. Overcash Jr"

<jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG<<mailto:jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG>>> wrote:  
<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>

My wife told me about this and I was horrified. I couldn't believe that given the current emphasis on school meals that the USDA would allow such a practice (not that I would doubt my wife mind you). Don't we already have enough issues to try to fight? Now we find out that not only are we feeding the children meat that formerly was classified as pet food, it is being treated with a chemical that is highly caustic and dangerous...

John

John Overcash, SNS  
Food Service Director  
Littleton Public Schools  
c/o Littleton Middle School  
55 Russell Street  
Littleton, MA 01460  
Cell: 978.771.8620  
office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243  
fax: 978.952.4547  
e-mail: [jovercash@littletonps.org](mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org)<<mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org>>

<image001.jpg>

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\*\*\*\*\*

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 11:41:12 -0500  
From: "Roberson, Susan" <sroberso@RICHMOND.K12.VA.US>  
Subject: Re: This is disgusting

Amen

On 3/7/12, Toni Lindeleaf <tonil@wawona.com> wrote:

> My suggestion is that everyone take some time and venture over to the USDA  
> AMS Commodity purchasing website and actually look at the product  
> specifications of the items being purchased by USDA. There are very strict  
> standards and are continuously working with manufacturers and producers to  
> purchase the healthiest products possible. The products purchased on behalf  
> of the National School meal programs are not just excess substandard  
> products. They are freshly produced for each USDA solicitations that are  
> awarded.

>

>

>

> If commercial foods are purchased you all are writing your own product  
> specifications and have control over those items from a commercial  
> distributor or from manufacture direct purchases.

>

>

>

> Pink Slime!!!!!!!!! I would worry more about the foods and how they are  
> produced in the regular grocery store than what is purchased and served in  
> schools.

>

>

>

> From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
> [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Anna Wolk

> Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:45 AM

> To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV

> Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

>

>

>  
> How do we know this is fact and not more hype from the Jamie Oliver camp? I  
> just don't want to panic and jump on the band wagon if this is unfounded...  
>  
> Sent from my iPhone  
>  
>  
> On Mar 7, 2012, at 9:15 AM, "John R. Overcash Jr"  
> <jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG> wrote:  
>  
> <http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>  
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> My wife told me about this and I was horrified. I couldn't believe that  
> given the current emphasis on school meals that the USDA would allow such a  
> practice (not that I would doubt my wife mind you). Don't we already have  
> enough issues to try to fight? Now we find out that not only are we feeding  
> the children meat that formerly was classified as pet food, it is being  
> treated with a chemical that is highly caustic and dangerous...  
>  
>  
>  
> John  
>  
>  
>  
> John Overcash, SNS  
>  
> Food Service Director  
>  
> Littleton Public Schools  
>  
> c/o Littleton Middle School  
>  
> 55 Russell Street  
>  
> Littleton, MA 01460  
>  
> Cell: 978.771.8620  
>  
> office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243  
>  
> fax: 978.952.4547  
>  
> e-mail: jovercash@littletonps.org  
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> <image001.jpg>  
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>  
> It is the policy of the Littleton Public Schools not to discriminate on the  
> basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness,  
> sexual orientation, age or disability in its educational programs, services,  
> activities or employment practices. Further information may be obtained by  
> contacting Dianna Peterson, District Equity Coordinator at 978-486-8951. The  
> contents of this e-mail and any attached documents are subject to Public  
> Records Law, M.G.L. c. 66, 10.  
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> Visit the Healthy Meals Resource System <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov>  
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> \*\*\*\*\*  
>  
>

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Sent from my mobile device

Susan Roberson, Director  
School Nutrition Services  
Richmond Public Schools  
201 West Graham Road, 2nd Floor  
Richmond, VA 23222  
804-780-8240

\*\*\*\*\*

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-----  
Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 09:57:59 -0800  
From: Mary-Asplund -NTR <masplund@FWPS.ORG>  
Subject: new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

Hi,  
Recently I noticed cassava listed in our new guidelines 'vegetable suggestions'. I googled it and came upon this website:  
<http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/cassava.htm>

Apparantly if improperly processed "The roots and leaves of a poorly processed cassava plants contain a substance that, when eaten, can trigger the production of cyanide"

The article does mention a strain that is cyanide free.

I actually don't even know where to buy this vegetable. Many people eat it in Africa as a staple.

Does anyone know of its availability? Is anyone using it? Are there any accompanying guidelines for use of vegetables that have 'cautions' such as this?

Mary Asplund, R.D.  
Director Nutrition Services  
Federal Way School District  
253-945-5557

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 13:04:56 -0500  
From: "Martin, Lydia" <MartiLy@BOE.RICHMOND.K12.GA.US>  
Subject: Re: This is disgusting

[http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions\\_and\\_Answers\\_about\\_Ammonium\\_Hydroxide\\_Use\\_in\\_Food\\_Production](http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions_and_Answers_about_Ammonium_Hydroxide_Use_in_Food_Production)  
For a less sensational resource.

Carole,

Yes, you can find it in ground beef at Kroger and many other grocery stores. The part I find most distasteful is the use of the scraps that were for pet food being made into hamburger patties for use in schools. "Even apart from safety concerns, it is simply wrong to feed our children connective tissues and beef scraps that were, in the past, destined for use in pet food and rendering and were not considered fit for human consumption."

It really makes you want to produce all of the food you and your family consume.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Carole Ellis  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:29 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

The article I read also stated that this "slime" is in most ground beef (not just patties) sold in grocery stores!

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] <[mailto:\[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov\]](mailto:[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov])> On Behalf Of Trieste Chiquete  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:20 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV <<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

John- is there a way to find out which manufacturers are using "pink slime" or would it be labeled a specific way?

Trieste Chiquete, MS  
Director, Child Nutrition  
Coronado Unified School District  
201 6th Ave. Coronado, Ca 92118  
619-522-8907 ext. 2085  
619-602-4444 (cell)  
[trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us](mailto:trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us) <<mailto:trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us>>

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] <[mailto:\[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov\]](mailto:[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov])> On Behalf Of John R. Overcash Jr  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:16 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV <<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>  
Subject: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
Importance: High

<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>

My wife told me about this and I was horrified. I couldn't believe that given the current emphasis on school meals that the USDA would allow such a practice (not that I would doubt my wife mind you). Don't we already have enough issues to try to fight? Now we find out that not only are we feeding the children meat that formerly was classified as pet food, it is being treated with a chemical that is highly caustic and dangerous...

John

John Overcash, SNS  
Food Service Director  
Littleton Public Schools  
c/o Littleton Middle School  
55 Russell Street  
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Cell: 978.771.8620  
office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243  
fax: 978.952.4547  
e-mail: [jovercash@littletonps.org](mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org) <<mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org>>

[cid:image001.jpg@01CCFC63.092037D0]

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"Learning Today... Leading Tomorrow"

The Mission of the Richmond County School System is to educate students to become lifelong learners and productive citizens.

\*\*\*\*\*

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 18:18:30 +0000  
From: Geraldo Torres <GTorres@RHNET.ORG>  
Subject: Re: new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

Cassava or Yuca is a root vegetable used frequently in Africa, Central and South America and the Caribbean. It is used in many Latin cuisines. It is readily available in many markets in the US. I do not use it in our School lunch program but I have eaten it all my life( I'm still alive ). I have never heard of the concerns with cyanide nor have I heard of a "Cyanide free Cassava".

Geraldo Torres, SNS  
Food Service Director  
Rush-Henrietta Central School District  
1133 Lehigh Station Road  
Henrietta, New York 14467  
Phone: 585-359-5388  
Fax: 585-359-5384

FEEDING OUR KIDS, FUELING OUR FUTURE!

-----Original Message-----

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Mary-Asplund -NTR  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:58 PM  
To: Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov  
Subject: [Mealtalk] new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

Hi,  
Recently I noticed cassava listed in our new guidelines 'vegetable suggestions'. I googled it and came upon this website:  
<http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/cassava.htm>

Apparantly if improperly processed "The roots and leaves of a poorly processed cassava plants contain a substance that, when eaten, can trigger the production of cyanide"

The article does mention a strain that is cyanide free.

I actually don't even know where to buy this vegetable. Many people eat it in Africa as a staple.

Does anyone know of its availability? Is anyone using it? Are there any accompanying guidelines for use of vegetables that have 'cautions' such as this?

Mary Asplund, R.D.  
Director Nutrition Services  
Federal Way School District  
253-945-5557

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 10:26:18 -0800  
From: Ree Ella von Borstel <rvonborstel@SHERMAN.K12.OR.US>  
Subject: Re: [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

Come on people!! Hamburger is pieces of meat that are too small for use in other beef products. They cut meat off the ribs, neck, and around other bones. Other muscle meats are used and good for us and yes our pets. Look at some of meats in the coolers for pets, they use good cuts and scraps. There is nothing wrong with it, it's clean and it is safe. Other countries waste less of the animal and eat parts of the animals that most people refuse to even touch and they are doing fine. Live on a farm and you get the true picture about the animal and what is used. I am so tired of this and the hype from the media. Obviously they know nothing about how an animal is butchered. Sorry about sounding off, but this is getting real old.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[mailto:[Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov](mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov)] On Behalf Of Martin, Lydia  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:05 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
Importance: Low

[http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions\\_and\\_Answers\\_about\\_Ammonium\\_Hydroxide\\_Use\\_in\\_Food\\_Production](http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions_and_Answers_about_Ammonium_Hydroxide_Use_in_Food_Production)

For a less sensational resource.

Carole,

Yes, you can find it in ground beef at Kroger and many other grocery stores. The part I find most distasteful is the use of the scraps that were for pet food being made into hamburger patties for use in schools.

"Even apart from safety concerns, it is simply wrong to feed our children connective tissues and beef scraps that were, in the past, destined for use in pet food and rendering and were not considered fit for human consumption."

It really makes you want to produce all of the food you and your family

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[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov] On Behalf Of Carole Ellis  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:29 AM  
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The article I read also stated that this "slime" is in most ground beef (not just patties) sold in grocery stores!

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov] On Behalf Of Trieste Chiquete  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:20 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

John- is there a way to find out which manufacturers are using "pink slime" or would it be labeled a specific way?

Trieste Chiquete, MS

Director, Child Nutrition

Coronado Unified School District

201 6th Ave. Coronado, Ca 92118

619-522-8907 ext. 2085

619-602-4444 (cell)

trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov] On Behalf Of John R. Overcash Jr  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:16 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
Importance: High

<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>

My wife told me about this and I was horrified. I couldn't believe that

given the current emphasis on school meals that the USDA would allow such a practice (not that I would doubt my wife mind you). Don't we already have enough issues to try to fight? Now we find out that not only are we feeding the children meat that formerly was classified as pet food, it is being treated with a chemical that is highly caustic and dangerous...

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Food Service Director

Littleton Public Schools

c/o Littleton Middle School

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Cell: 978.771.8620

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e-mail: [jovercash@littletonps.org](mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org)

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 13:55:24 -0500  
From: "John R. Overcash Jr" <jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG>  
Subject: Re: [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

No one is suggesting that the meat in ground beef is anything other than what you say it is. However there is a difference between using connective tissue that has been treated with salad oil and chemicals and grinding up the muscle. I am all for using every part of the animal that can be used, but lets be honest, if I purchase a product that says it is 100% ground beef I expect it to be 100% ground beef. Not 85% ground beef and 15% connective tissue and other things that are not actually beef that have been treated with chemicals etc. Assuming that this ammonium hydroxide stuff is safe it seems to me that the real reason that the meat processor wants to use it is financial.

John Overcash, SNS

Food Service Director

Littleton Public Schools

c/o Littleton Middle School

55 Russell Street

Littleton, MA 01460

Cell: 978.771.8620

office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243

fax: 978.952.4547

e-mail: jovercash@littletonps.org

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Importance: Low

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 12:53:18 -0600  
From: Kim Miller <kmiller@CRESTONSCHOOLS.ORG>  
Subject: Re: [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

Well said:)

On Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 12:55 PM, John R. Overcash Jr <jovercash@littletonps.org> wrote:

> \* \* \* \* \*  
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> No one is suggesting that the meat in ground beef is anything other than  
> what you say it is. However there is a difference between using connective  
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> John Overcash, SNS\*\*\*\*  
>  
> Food Service Director\*\*\*\*  
>  
> Littleton Public Schools\*\*\*\*  
>  
> c/o \*\*\*\*Littleton\*\* \*\*Middle School\*\*\*\*\*

>  
> \*\*\*\*55 Russell Street\*\*\*\*\*  
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> \*\*\*\*Littleton\*\*, \*\*MA\*\* \*\*01460\*\*\*\*\*  
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> \*Importance:\* Low\*\*\*\*  
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> \*Subject:\* Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting\*\*\*\*  
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> \*Director, Child Nutrition\*  
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> \*619-602-4444 (cell)\*  
>  
> \*trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us\*  
>  
> \* \*  
>  
> \*\* \*\*

>  
> \*From:\* Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
> [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] \*On Behalf Of \*John R. Overcash Jr  
> \*Sent:\* Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:16 AM  
> \*To:\* Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
> \*Subject:\* [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
> \*Importance:\* High\*\*\*\*  
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> \*\* \*\*  
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>  
> <http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>  
> \*\*\*\*  
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> My wife told me about this and I was horrified. I couldn't believe that  
> given the current emphasis on school meals that the USDA would allow such a  
> practice (not that I would doubt my wife mind you). Don't we already have  
> enough issues to try to fight? Now we find out that not only are we  
> feeding the children meat that formerly was classified as pet food, it is  
> being treated with a chemical that is highly caustic and dangerous...\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \*\*\*\*  
>  
> John\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \*\*\*\*  
>  
> John Overcash, SNS\*\*\*\*  
>  
> Food Service Director\*\*\*\*  
>  
> Littleton Public Schools\*\*\*\*  
>  
> c/o \*\*\*\*Littleton\*\* \*\*Middle School\*\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \*\*\*\*55 Russell Street\*\*\*\*\*  
>  
> \*\*\*\*Littleton\*\*, \*\*MA\*\* \*\*01460\*\*\*\*\*  
>  
> Cell: 978.771.8620\*\*\*\*  
>  
> office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243\*\*\*\*  
>  
> fax: 978.952.4547\*\*\*\*  
>  
> e-mail: [jovercash@littletonps.org](mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org)\*\*\*\*  
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>

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Kim Miller  
Food Service Director  
Creston Schools  
641-782-2918  
kmiller@crestonschools.org

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 14:04:08 -0500  
From: "Martin, Lydia" <MartiLy@BOE.RICHMOND.K12.GA.US>  
Subject: Re: [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

Ditto. My feelings exactly. I want to know what is in the meat I buy. For that matter I am for labeling of GMO ingredients too.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Kim Miller  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:53 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

Well said:)

On Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 12:55 PM, John R. Overcash Jr  
<[jovercash@littletonps.org](mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org)<<mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org>>> wrote:

No one is suggesting that the meat in ground beef is anything other than what you say it is. However there is a difference between using connective tissue that has been treated with salad oil and chemicals and grinding up the muscle. I am all for using every part of the animal that can be used, but lets be honest, if I purchase a product that says it is 100% ground beef I expect it to be 100% ground beef. Not 85% ground beef and 15% connective tissue and other things that are not actually beef that have been treated with chemicals etc. Assuming that this ammonium hydroxide stuff is safe it seems to me that the real reason that the meat processor wants to use it is financial...

John Overcash, SNS  
Food Service Director  
Littleton Public Schools  
c/o Littleton Middle School  
55 Russell Street  
Littleton, MA 01460  
Cell: 978.771.8620<tel:978.771.8620>  
office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243<tel:978.486.8938%C2%A0%20ext%201243>  
fax: 978.952.4547<tel:978.952.4547>  
e-mail: [jovercash@littletonps.org](mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org)<<mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org>>

[cid:image001.jpg@01CCFC6B.4E6C91A0]

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From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs



[<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov><<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>>] On Behalf Of Ree Ella von Borstel  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:26 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV<<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

Come on people!! Hamburger is pieces of meat that are too small for use in other beef products. They cut meat off the ribs, neck, and around other bones. Other muscle meats are used and good for us and yes our pets. Look at some of meats in the coolers for pets, they use good cuts and scraps. There is nothing wrong with it, it's clean and it is safe. Other countries waste less of the animal and eat parts of the animals that most people refuse to even touch and they are doing fine. Live on a farm and you get the true picture about the animal and what is used. I am so tired of this and the hype from the media. Obviously they know nothing about how an animal is butchered. Sorry about sounding off, but this is getting real old.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov><<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>>] On Behalf Of Martin, Lydia  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:05 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV<<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>  
Subject: [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
Importance: Low

[http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions\\_and\\_Answers\\_about\\_Ammonium\\_Hydroxide\\_Use\\_in\\_Food\\_Production](http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions_and_Answers_about_Ammonium_Hydroxide_Use_in_Food_Production)  
For a less sensational resource.

Carole,

Yes, you can find it in ground beef at Kroger and many other grocery stores. The part I find most distasteful is the use of the scraps that were for pet food being made into hamburger patties for use in schools.  
"Even apart from safety concerns, it is simply wrong to feed our children connective tissues and beef scraps that were, in the past, destined for use in pet food and rendering and were not considered fit for human consumption."

It really makes you want to produce all of the food you and your family consume.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] <<mailto:%5bmailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov%5d>> On Behalf Of Carole Ellis  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:29 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV<<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

The article I read also stated that this "slime" is in most ground beef (not just patties) sold in grocery stores!

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] <<mailto:%5bmailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov%5d>> On Behalf Of Trieste Chiquete  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:20 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV<<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

John- is there a way to find out which manufacturers are using "pink slime" or would it be labeled a specific way?

Trieste Chiquete, MS  
Director, Child Nutrition  
Coronado Unified School District  
201 6th Ave. Coronado, Ca 92118  
619-522-8907 ext. 2085<tel:619-522-8907%20ext.%202085>  
619-602-4444<tel:619-602-4444> (cell)  
trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us<<mailto:trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us>>

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] <<mailto:%5bmailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov%5d>> On Behalf Of John R. Overcash Jr  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:16 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV<<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>  
Subject: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
Importance: High

<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food>

My wife told me about this and I was horrified. I couldn't believe that given the current emphasis on school meals that the USDA would allow such a practice (not that I would doubt my wife mind you). Don't we already have enough issues to try to fight? Now we find out that not only are we feeding the children meat that formerly was classified as pet food, it is being treated with a chemical that is highly caustic and dangerous...

John

John Overcash, SNS  
Food Service Director  
Littleton Public Schools  
c/o Littleton Middle School  
55 Russell Street  
Littleton, MA 01460  
Cell: 978.771.8620<tel:978.771.8620>  
office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243<tel:978.486.8938%C2%A0%20ext%201243>  
fax: 978.952.4547<tel:978.952.4547>  
e-mail: jovercash@littletonps.org<<mailto:jovercash@littletonps.org>>

[cid:image001.jpg@01CCFC6B.4E6C91A0]

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Kim Miller  
Food Service Director  
Creston Schools  
641-782-2918  
kmiller@crestonschools.org<<mailto:kmiller@crestonschools.org>>

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 19:34:43 +0000  
From: Owner-Mealtalk <Owner-Mealtalk@ARS.USDA.GOV>  
Subject: Ammoniated beef

Greetings Mealtalk,

Although there is no link on any USDA website that adds clarity about this issue, BPI, the only Beef manufacturer that is using this practice has created a video on YouTube that may help in understanding the issue to be able to respond to public concerns:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Fj81Ljx58s&feature=related>

Thank you,  
Mealtalk Administrator

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 12:05:03 -0800  
From: Mary-Asplund -NTR <masplund@FWPS.ORG>  
Subject: Re: new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

How is it packaged? Can you share a link to a particular product? thanks "Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs" <Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov> writes:

>Cassava or Yuca is a root vegetable used frequently in Africa, Central and South America and the Caribbean. It is used in many Latin cuisines. It is readily available in many markets in the US. I do not use it in our School lunch program but I have

>eaten it all my life( I'm still alive ). I have never heard of the concerns with cyanide nor have I heard of a "Cyanide free Cassava".

>

>Geraldo Torres, SNS  
>Food Service Director  
>Rush-Henrietta Central School District  
>1133 Lehigh Station Road  
>Henrietta, New York 14467  
>Phone: 585-359-5388  
>Fax: 585-359-5384  
>  
>FEEDING OUR KIDS, FUELING OUR FUTURE!  
>  
>  
>-----Original Message-----  
>From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Mary-Asplund -NTR  
>Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:58 PM  
>To: Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov  
>Subject: [Mealtalk] new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable  
>  
>Hi,  
>Recently I noticed cassava listed in our new guidelines 'vegetable suggestions'. I googled it and came upon this website:  
><http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/cassava.htm>  
>  
>Apparantly if improperly processed "The roots and leaves of a poorly processed cassava plants contain a substance that, when eaten, can trigger the production of cyanide"  
>  
>The article does mention a strain that is cyanide free.  
>  
>I actually don't even know where to buy this vegetable. Many people eat it in Africa as a staple.  
>  
>Does anyone know of its availability? Is anyone using it? Are there any accompanying guidelines for use of vegetables that have 'cautions' such as this?  
>  
>  
>  
>Mary Asplund, R.D.  
>Director Nutrition Services  
>Federal Way School District  
>253-945-5557  
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-----  
Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 14:11:27 -0600  
From: JILL MOREY <MOREYJ@BRANSON.K12.MO.US>  
Subject: Re: Ammoniated beef

Good Afternoon,

I would also mention that the original article on this actually came out in 2009 and for some reason the Huffington Post has started to re-circulate it again....this is old information getting stirred back up.

I spoke with the Missouri's USDA/Commodity program (when this originally surfaced and again today) and they shared with me that none of the beef from Beef Products Inc was purchased or used in Missouri.

>>> Owner-Mealtalk <Owner-Mealtalk@ARS.USDA.GOV> 3/7/2012 1:34 PM >>>

Greetings Mealtalk,

Although there is no link on any USDA website that adds clarity about this issue, BPI, the only Beef manufacturer that is using this practice has created a video on YouTube that may help in understanding the issue to be able to respond to public concerns:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Fj81Ljx58s&feature=related>

Thank you,  
Mealtalk Administrator

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 12:56:03 -0800  
From: Darlene Bonds <dbonds@DPOL.NET>  
Subject: Re: new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

We just tried Jicama and our students loved it! It is also a root plant.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov] On Behalf Of Mary-Asplund -NTR  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:05 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

How is it packaged? Can you share a link to a particular product?  
thanks "Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs"  
<Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov> writes:  
>Cassava or Yuca is a root vegetable used frequently in Africa, Central  
and South America and the Caribbean. It is used in many Latin cuisines.  
It is readily available in many markets in the US. I do not use it in  
our School lunch program but I have  
>eaten it all my life( I'm still alive ). I have never heard of the  
concerns with cyanide nor have I heard of a "Cyanide free Cassava".

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>Food Service Director  
>Rush-Henrietta Central School District  
>1133 Lehigh Station Road  
>Henrietta, New York 14467  
>Phone: 585-359-5388  
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>FEEDING OUR KIDS, FUELING OUR FUTURE!  
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>[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov] On Behalf Of Mary-Asplund -NTR  
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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 15:00:03 -0600  
From: "Noble, Dani" <[dnoble@PISD.NET](mailto:dnoble@PISD.NET)>  
Subject: Re: new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

How did you prepare it?

-----Original Message-----

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Darlene Bonds  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:56 PM  
To: [Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV)  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

We just tried Jicama and our students loved it! It is also a root plant.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Mary-Asplund -NTR  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:05 PM  
To: [Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV)  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

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thanks "Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs"  
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>eaten it all my life( I'm still alive ). I have never heard of the concerns with cyanide nor have I heard of a "Cyanide free Cassava".

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>Geraldo Torres, SNS  
>Food Service Director  
>Rush-Henrietta Central School District  
>1133 Lehigh Station Road  
>Henrietta, New York 14467  
>Phone: 585-359-5388  
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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 13:02:49 -0800  
From: Darlene Bonds <dbonds@DPOL.NET>  
Subject: Re: new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

We ordered it pre packaged and it comes sliced. The students asked for lemon juice and chili spices for it next time! lol It has a crisp, slightly sweet taste. I liked them too!

-----Original Message-----  
From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[mailto:[Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov](mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov)] On Behalf Of Noble, Dani  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:00 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

How did you prepare it?

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Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:56 PM  
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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 21:08:18 +0000  
From: Geraldo Torres <GTorres@RHNET.ORG>  
Subject: Re: new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

You can purchase them fresh in cases and you would handle them as you would fresh potatoes. You can also purchase it frozen(peeled). Goya has them available frozen. You can look at the link below:

[http://www.goya.com/english/product\\_subcategory/Frozen-Foods/Vegetables](http://www.goya.com/english/product_subcategory/Frozen-Foods/Vegetables)

Geraldo Torres, SNS  
Food Service Director  
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Mary Asplund, R.D.  
Director Nutrition Services  
Federal Way School District  
253-945-5557

\*\*\*\*\*

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 13:22:02 -0800  
From: Ree Ella von Borstel <rvonborstel@SHERMAN.K12.OR.US>  
Subject: Re: [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] Ammoniated beef

Someone needs to inform the press they have bad and old info

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[mailto:[Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov](mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov)] On Behalf Of JILL MOREY  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:11 PM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] Ammoniated beef  
Importance: Low

Good Afternoon,

I would also mention that the original article on this actually came out in 2009 and for some reason the Huffington Post has started to re-circulate it again....this is old information getting stirred back up.

I spoke with the Missouri's USDA/Commodity program (when this originally surfaced and again today) and they shared with me that none of the beef from Beef Products Inc was purchased or used in Missouri.

>>> Owner-Mealtalk <Owner-Mealtalk@ARS.USDA.GOV> 3/7/2012 1:34 PM >>>

Greetings Mealtalk,

Although there is no link on any USDA website that adds clarity about this issue, BPI, the only Beef manufacturer that is using this practice has created a video on YouTube that may help in understanding the issue to be able to respond to public concerns:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Fj81Ljx58s&feature=related>

Thank you,

Mealtalk Administrator

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Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 13:35:30 -0800  
From: Jennifer Gerard <jgerard@MPUSD.K12.CA.US>  
Subject: Re: new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

We mix ours with chili powder and lime juice - the kids absolutely love it. We get it fresh already processed into sticks.

On Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 1:08 PM, Geraldo Torres <GTorres@rhnet.org> wrote:

> You can purchase them fresh in cases and you would handle them as you  
> would fresh potatoes. You can also purchase it frozen(peeled). Goya has  
> them available frozen. You can look at the link below:

>  
> [http://www.goya.com/english/product\\_subcategory/Frozen-Foods/Vegetables](http://www.goya.com/english/product_subcategory/Frozen-Foods/Vegetables)  
>  
>

> Geraldo Torres, SNS  
> Food Service Director  
> Rush-Henrietta Central School District  
> 1133 Lehigh Station Road  
> Henrietta, New York 14467  
> Phone: 585-359-5388  
> Fax: 585-359-5384  
>

> FEEDING OUR KIDS, FUELING OUR FUTURE!  
>  
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
> [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Mary-Asplund -NTR  
> Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 3:05 PM  
> To: Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov  
> Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable  
>

> How is it packaged? Can you share a link to a particular product?  
> thanks "Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs"  
> <Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov> writes:  
> >Cassava or Yuca is a root vegetable used frequently in Africa, Central  
> and South America and the Caribbean. It is used in many Latin cuisines.  
> It is readily available in many markets in the US. I do not use it in our  
> School lunch program but I have  
> >eaten it all my life( I'm still alive ). I have never heard of the  
> concerns with cyanide nor have I heard of a "Cyanide free Cassava".  
> >

> >Geraldo Torres, SNS  
> >Food Service Director  
> >Rush-Henrietta Central School District  
> >1133 Lehigh Station Road  
> >Henrietta, New York 14467  
> >Phone: 585-359-5388  
> >Fax: 585-359-5384  
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> >

> >-----Original Message-----

> >From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
> > [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Mary-Asplund -NTR  
> >Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:58 PM  
> >To: Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov  
> >Subject: [Mealtalk] new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable  
> >

> >Hi,

> >Recently I noticed cassava listed in our new guidelines 'vegetable  
> suggestions'. I googled it and came upon this website:  
> ><http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/cassava.htm>  
> >  
> >Apparantly if improperly processed "The roots and leaves of a poorly  
> processed cassava plants contain a substance that, when eaten, can trigger  
> the production of cyanide"  
> >  
> >The article does mention a strain that is cyanide free.  
> >  
> >I actually don't even know where to buy this vegetable. Many people eat  
> it in Africa as a staple.  
> >  
> >Does anyone know of its availability? Is anyone using it? Are there any  
> accompanying guidelines for use of vegetables that have 'cautions' such as  
> this?

> >  
> >  
> >  
> >  
> >Mary Asplund, R.D.  
> >Director Nutrition Services  
> >Federal Way School District  
> >253-945-5557

> >  
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Jenn Gerard, RD  
Director of Nutrition Services  
Monterey Peninsula Unified School District  
office: (831) 645-1266  
cell: (831) 901-7410

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-----  
Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2012 15:41:54 -0600  
From: malissa marsden <malissamarsden1@GMAIL.COM>  
Subject: Re: new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

high in vitamin c, 3.7 g fiber, low sodium

On Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 3:35 PM, Jennifer Gerard <jgerard@mpusd.k12.ca.us> wrote:

> We mix ours with chili powder and lime juice - the kids absolutely love  
> it. We get it fresh already processed into sticks.

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> On Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 1:08 PM, Geraldo Torres <GTorres@rhnet.org> wrote:

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>>

>>

>> Geraldo Torres, SNS

>> Food Service Director

>> Rush-Henrietta Central School District

>> 1133 Lehigh Station Road

>> Henrietta, New York 14467

>> Phone: 585-359-5388

>> Fax: 585-359-5384

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>> [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Mary-Asplund -NTR

>> Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 3:05 PM

>> To: Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov

>> Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

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>> How is it packaged? Can you share a link to a particular product?

>> thanks "Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs"

>> <Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov> writes:

>> >Cassava or Yuca is a root vegetable used frequently in Africa, Central

>> and South America and the Caribbean. It is used in many Latin cuisines.

>> It is readily available in many markets in the US. I do not use it in our

>> School lunch program but I have

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>> >To: Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov

>> >Subject: [Mealtalk] new veg requirements-cassava -vegetable

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>> >>Apparantly if improperly processed "The roots and leaves of a poorly

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> Jenn Gerard, RD  
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Malissa Marsden, SNS  
Child Nutrition Support Services  
815-751-7445 cell

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Date: Thu, 8 Mar 2012 13:31:43 +0000  
From: "Aubin, Brian" <baubin@CROSBYISD.ORG>  
Subject: Interesting to know.

<http://www.foodservicedirector.com/news/articles/court-says-schools-not-liable-allergens-contained-school-meals>

Brian Aubin  
Director of Child Nutrition Services  
Crosby I.S.D.  
706 Runneburg Rd.  
Crosby, TX 77532  
Phone: 281-328-9200 Ext: 1250  
Fax: 281-328-9240  
baubin@crosbyisd.org<<mailto:baubin@crosbyisd.org>>

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Date: Thu, 8 Mar 2012 09:00:11 -0500  
From: Megan Schaper <mas15@SCASD.ORG>  
Subject: Re: Interesting to know.

What I get from this article is that the State isn't liable. If you read the full article you'll see that the local school district settled so the issue of their liability was not addressed.

Megan Schaper, SNS  
Food Service Director

State College Area School District  
Food Service Department  
650 Westerly Parkway  
State College, PA 16801

phone: 814-231-5093  
fax: 814-231-5444  
email: mas15@scasd.org

cid:image001.jpg@01CCA438.2326A200

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
[<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Aubin, Brian  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:32 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [Mealtalk] Interesting to know.

<http://www.foodservicedirector.com/news/articles/court-says-schools-not-liable-allergens-contained-school-meals>

Brian Aubin  
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Phone: 281-328-9200 Ext: 1250  
Fax: 281-328-9240  
baubin@crosbyisd.org

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End of Mealtalk Digest - 7 Mar 2012 to 8 Mar 2012 - Special issue (#2012-14)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [Mealtalk listserv](#) on behalf of [NAL Listserv](#)  
**To:** [Mealtalk@echidna.NAL.USDA.GOV](mailto:Mealtalk@echidna.NAL.USDA.GOV)  
**Bcc:** [FSIS\\_Outreach](#)  
**Subject:** Mealtalk Digest - 8 Mar 2012 to 11 Mar 2012 (#2012-15)  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:00:25 AM

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There are 19 messages totaling 7328 lines in this issue.

Topics of the week:

1. Interesting to know. (4)
2. [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting
3. March 8 is MyPlate Day
4. parents eating students meals (12)
5. USDA Foods Banner Kit now available

\*\*\*\*\*

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-----  
Date: Thu, 8 Mar 2012 14:01:32 +0000  
From: "Aubin, Brian" <baubin@CROSBYISD.ORG>  
Subject: Re: Interesting to know.

Correct.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Megan Schaper  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:00 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Interesting to know.

What I get from this article is that the State isn't liable. If you read the full article you'll see that the local school district settled so the issue of their liability was not addressed.

Megan Schaper, SNS  
Food Service Director

State College Area School District  
Food Service Department  
650 Westerly Parkway  
State College, PA 16801

phone: 814-231-5093  
fax: 814-231-5444  
email: mas15@scasd.org<<mailto:mas15@scasd.org>>

[cid:image001.jpg@01CCA438 2326A200]

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Aubin, Brian  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:32 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: [Mealtalk] Interesting to know.

<http://www.foodservicedirector.com/news/articles/court-says-schools-not-liable-allergens-contained-school-meals>

Brian Aubin  
Director of Child Nutrition Services  
Crosby I.S.D.  
706 Runneburg Rd.  
Crosby, TX 77532  
Phone: 281-328-9200 Ext: 1250  
Fax: 281-328-9240  
baubin@crosbyisd.org<<mailto:baubin@crosbyisd.org>>

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-----  
Date: Thu, 8 Mar 2012 09:18:55 -0600  
From: Sawndra D'Aun Carrell <sdcarrell@GMAIL.COM>  
Subject: Re: [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting

John? Read the research....the (E)chemical<sup>1</sup> is ammonia-a natural occurring deterrent. Do you eat sausage?  
D'Aun Carrell

FUEL FOR THOUGHT-a childhood nutritional science curriculum  
ACF Chef & Child Foundation/Missouri  
Chefs Move to Schools/St. Louis, MO  
5832 Victoria Ave.  
Saint Louis, MO 63110  
314-323-3490  
sdcarrell@gmail.com

On 3/7/12 12:55 PM, "John R. Overcash Jr" <jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG> wrote:

> No one is suggesting that the meat in ground beef is anything other than what  
> you say it is. However there is a difference between using connective tissue  
> that has been treated with salad oil and chemicals and grinding up the muscle.  
> I am all for using every part of the animal that can be used, but lets be  
> honest, if I purchase a product that says it is 100% ground beef I expect it  
> to be 100% ground beef. Not 85% ground beef and 15% connective tissue and  
> other things that are not actually beef that have been treated with chemicals  
> etc. Assuming that this ammonium hydroxide stuff is safe it seems to me that  
> the real reason that the meat processor wants to use it is financial\$  
>  
>  
> John Overcash, SNS  
> Food Service Director  
> Littleton Public Schools  
> c/o Littleton Middle School  
> 55 Russell Street  
> Littleton, MA 01460  
> Cell: 978.771.8620  
> office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243  
> fax: 978.952.4547  
> e-mail: jovercash@littletonps.org  
>  
>  
>  
> It is the policy of the Littleton Public Schools not to discriminate on the  
> basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness, sexual  
> orientation, age or disability in its educational programs, services,  
> activities or employment practices. Further information may be obtained by  
> contacting Dianna Peterson, District Equity Coordinator at 978-486-8951. The  
> contents of this e-mail and any attached documents are subject to Public  
> Records Law, M.G.L. c. 66, 10.  
>  
>  
> From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
> [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Ree Ella von Borstel  
> Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:26 PM  
> To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
> Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
>  
> Come on people!! Hamburger is pieces of meat that are too small for use in  
> other beef products. They cut meat off the ribs, neck, and around other  
> bones. Other muscle meats are used and good for us and yes our pets. Look at  
> some of meats in the coolers for pets, they use good cuts and scraps. There  
> is nothing wrong with it, it's clean and it is safe. Other countries waste  
> less of the animal and eat parts of the animals that most people refuse to  
> even touch and they are doing fine. Live on a farm and you get the true  
> picture about the animal and what is used. I am so tired of this and the hype  
> from the media. Obviously they know nothing about how an animal is butchered.  
> Sorry about sounding off, but this is getting real old.  
>

>  
> From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
> [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Martin, Lydia  
> Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:05 AM  
> To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
> Subject: [SPAM] Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
> Importance: Low  
>  
> [http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions\\_and\\_Answers\\_a](http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions_and_Answers_about_Ammonium_Hydroxide_Use_in_Food_Production)  
> bout\_Ammonium\_Hydroxide\_Use\_in\_Food\_Production  
> For a less sensational resource.  
>  
> Carole,  
>  
> Yes, you can find it in ground beef at Kroger and many other grocery stores.  
> The part I find most distasteful is the use of the scraps that were for pet  
> food being made into hamburger patties for use in schools.  
> <sup>3</sup>Even apart from safety concerns, it is simply wrong to feed our children  
> connective tissues and beef scraps that were, in the past, destined for use in  
> pet food and rendering and were not considered fit for human consumption.<sup>2</sup>  
>  
> It really makes you want to produce all of the food you and your family  
> consume.  
>  
>  
> From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
> [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] <<mailto:%5bmailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov%5d>> On  
> Behalf Of Carole Ellis  
> Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:29 AM  
> To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
> Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
>  
> The article I read also stated that this <sup>3</sup>slime<sup>2</sup> is in most ground beef (not  
> just patties) sold in grocery stores!  
>  
>  
> From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
> [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] <<mailto:%5bmailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov%5d>> On  
> Behalf Of Trieste Chiquete  
> Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:20 AM  
> To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
> Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
>  
> John- is there a way to find out which manufacturers are using <sup>3</sup>pink slime<sup>2</sup> or  
> would it be labeled a specific way?  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> Trieste Chiquete, MS  
> Director, Child Nutrition  
> Coronado Unified School District  
> 201 6th Ave. Coronado, Ca 92118  
> 619-522-8907 ext. 2085  
> 619-602-4444 (cell)  
> trieste.chiquete@coronado.k12.ca.us  
>  
>  
>  
> From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs  
> [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] <<mailto:%5bmailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov%5d>> On  
> Behalf Of John R. Overcash Jr  
> Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:16 AM  
> To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
> Subject: [Mealtalk] This is disgusting  
> Importance: High  
>  
>  
> [http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-f](http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food)  
> ood  
>  
>  
> My wife told me about this and I was horrified. I couldn't believe that given  
> the current emphasis on school meals that the USDA would allow such a practice  
> (not that I would doubt my wife mind you). Don't we already have enough  
> issues to try to fight? Now we find out that not only are we feeding the  
> children meat that formerly was classified as pet food, it is being treated  
> with a chemical that is highly caustic and dangerous\$  
>  
> John  
>  
> John Overcash, SNS  
> Food Service Director  
> Littleton Public Schools  
> c/o Littleton Middle School  
> 55 Russell Street  
> Littleton, MA 01460  
> Cell: 978.771.8620  
> office: 978.486.8938 ext 1243  
> fax: 978.952.4547  
> e-mail: jovercash@littletonps.org  
>  
>  
>  
> It is the policy of the Littleton Public Schools not to discriminate on the

> basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness, sexual  
> orientation, age or disability in its educational programs, services,  
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>  
>  
>  
> "Learning Today... Leading Tomorrow"  
> The Mission of the Richmond County School System is to educate students to  
> become lifelong learners and productive citizens.  
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-----  
Date: Thu, 8 Mar 2012 09:44:13 -0700  
From: Judy Doherty <jay@FOODANDHEALTH.COM>  
Subject: March 8 is MyPlate Day

Hi to all:

Did you know March 8th is MyPlate Day?

Follow the tweets with the hashtag #MyPlateYourPlate

This quarter's message is "Balancing Calories: Enjoy your food, but eat less." Here is a guide to calories according to plate size:

<http://foodandhealth.com/blog/2012/01/balance-calories/>

Enjoy!

Judy

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Date: Thu, 8 Mar 2012 15:57:23 -0800  
From: Mary-Asplund -NTR <masplund@FWPS.ORG>  
Subject: parents eating students meals

Does anyone have something written up for parents who are taking or eating students meals? Recently we had a parent who had his son collect the free meal, then gave his son a sack lunch and the father ate the students meal at the table during lunch. The parent was stopped, was highly offended and wants something in writing. I will be writing a response, just want to see if I can save some time and copy what someone else has already written. I hope there is a well written response just waiting to be sent.

Thanks, please.... only respond if you have something that you have written suitable to give to the parent.

Mary Asplund, R.D.  
Director Nutrition Services  
Federal Way School District



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Date: Thu, 8 Mar 2012 17:58:56 -0600  
From: GINA KULKA <GINA\_KULKA@MARSHALL.K12.WI.US>  
Subject: Re: parents eating students meals

[Message contains invalid MIME fields or encoding and could not be processed]

-----  
Date: Thu, 8 Mar 2012 20:17:25 -0500  
From: Carole Ellis <CEllis@BRYAN.K12.GA.US>  
Subject: Re: parents eating students meals

We serve the free meal and get reimbursed. If the student decides to eat, throw away, or give to someone else is of no concern to me. I would feel exactly the same if it were a paid meal.

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 8, 2012, at 6:58 PM, "Mary-Asplund -NTR" <masplund@FWPS.ORG> wrote:

> Does anyone have something written up for parents who are taking or eating students meals? Recently we had a parent who had his son collect the free meal, then gave his son a sack lunch and the father ate the students meal at the table during lunch.  
> The parent was stopped, was highly offended and wants something in writing.  
> I will be writing a response, just want to see if I can save some time and copy what someone else has already written. I hope there is a well written response just waiting to be sent.

> Thanks, please.... only respond if you have something that you have written suitable to give to the parent.

>  
>  
>  
>  
> Mary Asplund, R.D.  
> Director Nutrition Services  
> Federal Way School District  
> 253-945-5557

>  
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Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2012 05:19:06 -0600  
From: Anna Wolk <awolk@JOHNSBURG12.ORG>  
Subject: Re: parents eating students meals

I guess, as long as they qualify for the free meal, there isn't anything we can do.

We've had instances where a student who is a free lunch status has come through the line, taken their tray and then as soon as they sit down, Mom pops in with McDonalds to surprise her child.

We can't take the meal back, and obviously the child would rather have McDonald's, so they parent ends up eating the school meal.

Granted, this isn't as blatant as the scenarios you are describing, but it does happen. I wonder if there is a regulation or some sort of formal guidance on this.....

Great question!

\*\*\*Motivation is like food for the brain. You cannot get enough in one sitting. It needs continual and regular top ups.\*\*

\*--Peter Davies,  
British composer and conductor

\*

\*\*

\*

\*\*Anna M. Wolk  
Food Service Coordinator  
Johnsburg Community Unit School District 12  
2117 W. Church St.  
Johnsburg IL 60051  
(815)344-2803 office  
(815)790-6031 cell  
awolk@johnsburg12.org\*

On Thu, Mar 8, 2012 at 7:17 PM, Carole Ellis <CEllis@bryan.k12.ga.us> wrote:

> We serve the free meal and get reimbursed. If the student decides to eat,  
> throw away, or give to someone else is of no concern to me. I would feel  
> exactly the same if it were a paid meal.

>  
> Sent from my iPad

>  
> On Mar 8, 2012, at 6:58 PM, "Mary-Asplund -NTR" <masplund@FWPS.ORG> wrote:

>  
> > Does anyone have something written up for parents who are taking or  
> eating students meals? Recently we had a parent who had his son collect  
> the free meal, then gave his son a sack lunch and the father ate the  
> students meal at the table during lunch.

> > The parent was stopped, was highly offended and wants something in  
> writing.

> > I will be writing a response, just want to see if I can save some time  
> and copy what someone else has already written. I hope there is a well  
> written response just waiting to be sent.

> >  
> > Thanks, please.... only respond if you have something that you have  
> written suitable to give to the parent.

> >  
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> >  
> >  
> > Mary Asplund, R.D.  
> > Director Nutrition Services  
> > Federal Way School District  
> > 253-945-5557

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Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2012 06:46:45 -0500  
From: JROvercash <jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG>  
Subject: Re: parents eating students meals

I would check with state agency. Sometime ago I was told, that a student that receives a subsidized meal may not share or give it away. The premise is that the subsidy is assigned to the student and cannot be transferred.  
I dont recall the source but it was either my state agency or this forum....

Jojn

--

Sent from my Android phone with K-9 Mail. Please excuse my brevity.

Mary-Asplund -NTR <masplund@FWPS.ORG> wrote:

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Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2012 07:28:28 -0600  
From: Ann Langston <alangston@WOLVES.K12.MO.US>  
Subject: Re: parents eating students meals

This is a child nutritional program. State regulations would frown on that. I most definitely would contact the State. If the parent wants to purchase an adult meal, so be it!

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--  
\*Ann Langston\*  
\*Food Service Director\*  
\*Reeds Spring R-IV School District  
417-272-8332 ext. 1  
\*

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Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2012 13:41:28 +0000  
From: "Sherrin, Rachelle" <sherrinr@CFBISD.EDU>  
Subject: Re: parents eating students meals

Unfortunately, we have had the same issue. I could not find this spelled out in federal regulation or from our state agency. So here is my attempt to solve my problem. We have posted these in the cafeteria, and have only had to direct a customer or two to the poster. Then the work spreads quickly.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Ann Langston  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 7:28 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] parents eating students meals

This is a child nutritional program. State regulations would frown on that. I most definitely would contact the State. If the parent wants to purchase an adult meal, so be it!

On Fri, Mar 9, 2012 at 5:46 AM, JROvercash <jovercash@littletonps.org> wrote:

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Jojn

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Federal Way School District  
253-945-5557

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Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2012 14:03:05 +0000  
From: "Sherrin, Rachelle" <sherrinr@CFBISD.EDU>  
Subject: Re: parents eating students meals

Sorry, I thought I attached the document. So I have attached it again, just in case it does not go through it states:

Meals served at school are all or partially funded through the National School Meals Program and must be consumed on-site by C-FB ISD students. Students are not allowed to share their food with others or take cafeteria food home. Parents and visitors may purchase a meal for their own consumption if they want to join their student for lunch.

"Picture of children eating meals - inserted here"

Las comidas que se sirven en la escuela están totalmente o parcialmente financiadas por el programa nacional de "National School Meals" y deberán ser consumidas in situ por estudiantes de C-FB ISD. No se les permite a los estudiantes compartir su comida con otros, o llevarse la comida a casa. Los padres o visitantes pueden comprar su comida si desean comer con su estudiante en el comedor escolar.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Sherrin, Rachelle  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 7:41 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] parents eating students meals

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Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 7:28 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV<<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] parents eating students meals

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Jojn

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Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2012 09:43:32 -0500  
From: JROvercash <jovercash@LITTLETONPS.ORG>  
Subject: Re: parents eating students meals

The other issue is meals tax. In Massachusetts adults must pay tax on all purchases.

--

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Ann Langston  
Food Service Director  
Reeds Spring R-IV School District  
417-272-8332 ext. 1

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Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2012 15:00:38 +0000  
From: Dean Jean <Dean.Jean@MERIDIANSCHOOLS.ORG>  
Subject: Re: parents eating students meals

Thanks for the notice. I have a huge problem with principals and teachers collecting food that students don't want such as milk and taking it to the staff refrigerator. They don't understand why they can't do that.

Jean M. Dean  
School Nutrition Supervisor  
Meridian Joint School District No. 2  
office - 208-350-5108 cell - 208-995-4027  
dean.jean@meridianschools.org<<mailto:dean.jean@meridianschools.org>>

---

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov] on behalf of Sherrin, Rachelle [sherrinr@CFBISD.EDU]  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 7:03 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] parents eating students meals

Sorry, I thought I attached the document. So I have attached it again, just in case it does not go through it states:

Meals served at school are all or partially funded through the National School Meals Program and must be consumed on-site by C-FB ISD students. Students are not allowed to share their food with others or take cafeteria food home. Parents and visitors may purchase a meal for their own consumption if they want to join their student for lunch.

"Picture of children eating meals – inserted here"

Las comidas que se sirven en la escuela están totalmente o parcialmente financiadas por el programa nacional de "National School Meals" y deberán ser consumidas in situ por estudiantes de C-FB ISD. No se les permite a los estudiantes compartir su comida con otros, o llevarse la comida a casa. Los padres o visitantes pueden comprar su comida si desean comer con su estudiante en el comedor escolar.

---

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Sherrin, Rachelle  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 7:41 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] parents eating students meals

Unfortunately, we have had the same issue. I could not find this spelled out in federal regulation or from our state agency. So here is my attempt to solve my problem. We have posted these in the cafeteria, and have only had to direct a customer or two to the poster. Then the work spreads quickly.

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] <[mailto:\[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov\]](mailto:[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov])> On Behalf Of Ann Langston  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 7:28 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV<<mailto:Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV>>  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] parents eating students meals

This is a child nutritional program. State regulations would frown on that. I most definitely would contact the State. If the parent wants to purchase an adult meal, so be it!

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I would check with state agency. Sometime ago I was told, that a student that receives a subsidized meal may not share or give it away. The premise is that the subsidy is assigned to the student and cannot be transferred.

I dont recall the source but it was either my state agency or this forum....

Jojn

--

Sent from my Android phone with K-9 Mail. Please excuse my brevity.

Mary-Asplund -NTR <[masplund@FWPS.ORG](mailto:masplund@FWPS.ORG)<<mailto:masplund@FWPS.ORG>>> wrote:

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The parent was stopped, was highly offended and wants something in writing.

I will be writing a response, just want to see if I can save some time and copy what someone else has already written. I hope there is a well written response just waiting to be sent.

Thanks, please.... only respond if you have something that you have written suitable to give to the parent.

Mary Asplund, R.D.  
Director Nutrition Services  
Federal Way School District  
253-945-5557

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Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2012 06:58:07 -0800  
From: "Lewis, Babre" <blewis@POWAYUSD.COM>  
Subject: Re: parents eating students meals

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/mb00111.asp>

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of JROvercash  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 3:47 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] parents eating students meals

I would check with state agency. Sometime ago I was told, that a student that receives a subsidized meal may not share or give it away. The premise is that the subsidy is assigned to the student and cannot be transferred.  
I dont recall the source but it was either my state agency or this forum....

Join

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Sent from my Android phone with K-9 Mail. Please excuse my brevity.

Mary-Asplund -NTR <masplund@FWPS.ORG> wrote:

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Thanks, please.... only respond if you have something that you have written suitable to give to the parent.

Mary Asplund, R.D.  
Director Nutrition Services  
Federal Way School District  
253-945-5557

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\*\*\*\*\*

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Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2012 15:10:47 +0000

From: Hope Andrews <handrews@BPS.K12.IN.US>  
Subject: Re: parents eating students meals

I have this same issue, I am in Indiana and am I right to say that I can no longer allow any type of food from a students tray to go out of the cafeteria rather it be at breakfast or lunch?? At breakfast I always have students who take there cereal bar or non perishable item for after school. I have high school students who come get lunch and leave the cafeteria to go to meetings or whatever. Is this not allowed????

From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>] On Behalf Of Dean Jean  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 10:01 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] parents eating students meals

Thanks for the notice. I have a huge problem with principals and teachers collecting food that students don't want such as milk and taking it to the staff refrigerator. They don't understand why they can't do that.

Jean M. Dean  
School Nutrition Supervisor  
Meridian Joint School District No. 2  
office - 208-350-5108 cell - 208-995-4027  
dean.jean@meridianschools.org <<mailto:dean.jean@meridianschools.org>>

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From: Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [[Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov](mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov)] on behalf of Sherrin, Rachelle [[sherrinr@CFBISD.EDU](mailto:sherrinr@CFBISD.EDU)]  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 7:03 AM  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV  
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[illegible]

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the voice mail I left on your phone. Where is the IKEA
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.ExternalClass div.ecxMsoNormal
{margin-bottom:.0001pt;font-size:11.0pt;font-family:'Calibri','sans-serif';}
.ExternalClass a:link,
.ExternalClass span.ecxMsoHyperlink
{color:blue;text-decoration:underline;}
.ExternalClass a:visited,
```

.ExternalClass span ecxMsoHyperlinkFollowed {color:purple;text-decoration:underline;} .ExternalClass p {margin-right:0in;margin-left:0in;font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Times New Roman","serif";} .ExternalClass p.ecxMsoAcetate .ExternalClass li ecxMsoAcetate .ExternalClass div.ecxMsoAcetate {margin-bottom:.0001pt;font-size:8.0pt;font-family:"Tahoma","sans-serif";} .ExternalClass p.ecxMsoChpDefault .ExternalClass li.ecxMsoChpDefault .ExternalClass div ecxMsoChpDefault {margin-right:0in;margin-left:0in;font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Calibri","sans-serif";} .ExternalClass span.ecxEmailStyle17 {font-family:"Calibri","sans-serif";color:windowtext;} .ExternalClass span.ecxEmailStyle20 {font-family:"Calibri","sans-serif";color:#1F497D;} .ExternalClass span ecxBalloonTextChar {font-family:"Tahoma","sans-serif";} .ExternalClass .ecxMsoChpDefault {font-size:10.0pt;} @page WordSection1 {size:8.5in 11.0in;} .ExternalClass div ecxWordSection1 {page:WordSection1;} #12092;style>#25660;iv class="ecxWordSection1"#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="color:#1F497D">What I get from this article is that the #30012;State#12092;u> isn't liable. If you read the full article you'll see that the local school district settled so the issue of their liability was not addressed.#12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="color:#1F497D"> #15419;/span>#12092;p>#28732; class="ecxMsoNormal">#29500;pan style="color:#1F497D"> #12092;span#15422;/p#15422;div>#28732; class="ecxMsoNormal">#29500;pan style="color:#1F497D">Megan Schaper, SNS#12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="color:#1F497D">Food Service Director#12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="color:#1F497D"> #15419;/span>#12092;p>#28732; class="ecxMsoNormal">#29500;pan style="color:#1F497D">State College Area School District#12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="color:#1F497D">Food Service Department#12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="color:#1F497D">650 Westerly Parkwa#15481;/span>#12092;p>#28732; class="ecxMsoNormal">#29500;pan style="color:#1F497D">State College, PA 1680#15409;/span>#12092;p>#28732; class="ecxMsoNormal">#29500;pan style="color:#1F497D"> #12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="color:#1F497D">phone: 814-231-5093#12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="color:#1F497D">fax: 814-231-5444#12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="color:#1F497D">email: mas15@scasd.or#15463;/span>#12092;p>#28732; class="ecxMsoNormal">#29500;pan style="color:#1F497D"> #12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="color:blue">#26940;mg id="ecxPicture\_x0020\_1" src="cid:image001.jpg@01CCFD09.DE48AEAO" alt="cid:image001.jpg@01CCA438.2326A200" height="63" width="100"#15422;/span>#29500;pan style="color:#1F497D">#12092;span#15422;/p#15422;/div#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="color:#1F497D"> #15419;/span>#12092;p>#25660;iv#15422;div style="border:none;border-top:solid #B5C4DF 1.0pt;padding:3.0pt 0in 0in 0in"#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;b>#29500;pan style="font-size:10.0pt;font-family:"Tahoma","sans-serif">From:#12092;span#15422;/b#15422;span style="font-size:10.0pt;font-family:"Tahoma","sans-serif"> Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [\[mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov\]](mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov)#15392;b>On Behalf Of#15392;/b>Aubin, Bria#15470;br#15422;b>Sent#15418;/b> Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:32 AM#25148;r>#25148; > To:#12092;b> Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV#25148;r>#25148;>Subject#15418;/b> [Mealtalk] Interesting to know#15406;/span>#12092;p>#12092;div>#12092;div>#28732; class="ecxMsoNormal"> #12092;p>#25660;iv#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"> #15419;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"> #15419;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;a href="http://www.foodservicedirector.com/news/articles/court-says-schools-not-labile-allergens-contained-school-meals" target=".\_blank">http://www.foodservicedirector.com/news/articles/court-says-schools-not-labile-allergens-contained-school-meals#12092;a>#12092;p>#28732; class="ecxMsoNormal"> #12092;p>#28732; class="ecxMsoNormal"> #12092;p>#28732; class="ecxMsoNormal">#29500;pan style="font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">Brian Aubi#15470;/span>#12092;p>#28732; class="ecxMsoNormal">#29500;pan style="font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">Director of Child Nutrition Services#12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">Crosby I.S.D.#12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">706 Runneburg Rd.#15392;/span>#12092;p>#28732; class="ecxMsoNormal">#29500;pan style="font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">Crosby, TX 77532#12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">Phone: 281-328-9200 Ext: 1250#12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">Fax: 281-328-9240#12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="font-family:"Arial","sans-serif">#24892; href="mailto:baubin@crosbyisd.org"baubin@crosbyisd.org#12092;a>#12092;span#15422;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"> #15419;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"> #15419;/p#15422;p class="ecxMsoNormal"#15422;span style="font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.#15392;/span>#12092;p>#28732; class="ecxMsoNormal">#29500;pan style="font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Times

New  
Roman" "serif"\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\* The Mealtalk list facilitates information exchange. The sender  
is responsible for content. If you have any questions or problems, contact  
the list owner at #24892;  
href="mailto:owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov">owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov#12092;  
a> #12092;span#15422:/p>If you would like to have your name removed from  
the Mealtalk list, please send an email to#15392;a  
href="mailto:owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov">owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov#15478;/  
a> Use the subject "Unsubscribe" and place the word "unsubscribe" in the  
body of then email. Please be sure to include the email address that you  
originally signed up with.#15392;BR>Mealtalk Purpose and Procedures: #24892;  
href="http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/discussion.html"  
target="\_blank">http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/discussion.htm#15468;/a>  
#16956;R>Visit the Healthy Meals Resource System #24892;  
href="http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov"  
target="\_blank">http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov#15478;/a>  
\*\*\*\*\*#153  
92;BR#15422;/div>

\*\*\*\*\* The  
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for content. If you have any questions or problems, contact the list owner  
at#15392;a  
href="mailto:owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov">owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov#15478;/  
a> If you would like to have your name removed from the Mealtalk list,  
please send an email to #24892;  
href="mailto:owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov">owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov#12092;  
a> Use the subject "Unsubscribe" and place the word "unsubscribe" in the  
body of then email. Please be sure to include the email address that you  
originally signed up with. #15370;BR> Mealtalk Purpose and Procedures:  
#24892; href="http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/discussion.html"  
target="\_blank">http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/discussion.htm#15468;/a>  
#15370;BR> Visit the Healthy Meals Resource System#15392;a  
href="http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov"  
target="\_blank">http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov#12092;a>  
\*\*\*\*\*#169

56;R>#12092;div> #12092;div>#12092;body> #15370;/html> This electronic  
message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended  
recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or  
disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject  
the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have  
received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the  
email immediately. /body> /html>  
\*\*\*\*\* The

Mealtalk list facilitates information exchange. The sender is responsible  
for content. If you have any questions or problems, contact the list owner  
at owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov.

If you would like to have your name removed from the Mealtalk list, please  
send an email to owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov. Use the subject "Unsubscribe"  
and place the word "unsubscribe" in the body of then email. Please be sure  
to include the email address that you originally signed up with.

Mealtalk Purpose and Procedures:  
<http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/discussion.html>

Visit the Healthy Meals Resource System <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov>  
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The Mealtalk list facilitates information exchange. The sender is responsible for content. If you have any questions or problems, contact the list owner at owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov.

If you would like to have your name removed from the Mealtalk list, please send an email to owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov. Use the subject "Unsubscribe" and place the word "unsubscribe" in the body of then email. Please be sure to include the email address that you originally signed up with.

Mealtalk Purpose and Procedures: <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/discussion.html>

Visit the Healthy Meals Resource System <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov>  
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Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2012 11:34:29 -0700  
From: donna wittrock <donnawittrock@MSN.COM>  
Subject: Re: Interesting to know.

So sorry - I accidentally replied to this message when I had intended to reply to a personal email. Please disregard.

Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2012 08:34:48 -0700  
From: donnawittrock@MSN.COM  
Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Interesting to know.  
To: Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV



& # 2 6 6 8 4 ; tml>  
& # 2 6 6 8 4 ; ead>  
& # 2 9 5 0 0 ; tyle& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; !--  
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{  
margin:0px;  
padding:0px  
}  
body.hmmessage  
{  
font-size: 10pt;  
font-family:Tahoma  
}  
-->& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; style>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; head>  
& # 1 5 3 7 0 ; body class='hmmessage'& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; div dir='ltr'>  
Got this message so you can ignore the voice mail I left on your phone. Where is the IKEA receipt???  
& # 2 5 1 4 8 ; r>& # 2 5 1 4 8 ; r>& # 2 5 6 6 0 ; iv& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; div  
id="SkyDrivePlaceholder"& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /div& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; hr id="stopSpelling">Date: Thu, 8 Mar 2012 09:00:11 -  
050& # 1 5 4 0 8 ; br>From: mas15@SCASD.ORG& # 2 5 1 4 8 ; r>Subject: Re: [Mealtalk] Interesting to know.& # 2 5 1 4 8 ; r>To:  
Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV& # 1 5 4 4 6 ; br& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; br>  
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{;}  
& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; style>& # 2 9 5 0 0 ; tyle>  
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{margin-bottom:.0001pt;font-size:11.0pt;font-family:"Calibri","sans-serif";}  
.ExternalClass a:link, .ExternalClass span.ecxMsoHyperlink  
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.ExternalClass a:visited, .ExternalClass span.ecxMsoHyperlinkFollowed  
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{margin-right:0in;margin-left:0in;font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Times New Roman","serif";}  
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.ExternalClass span.ecxBalloonTextChar  
{font-family:"Tahoma","sans-serif";}  
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& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; style>& # 2 5 6 6 0 ; iv class="ecxWordSection1"& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p class="ecxMsoNormal"& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; span  
style="color:#1F497D">What I get from this article is that the & # 3 0 0 1 2 ; >State& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; u> isn't liable. If you read the full article you'll  
see that the local school district settled so the issue of their liability was not  
addressed.& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; span& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /p& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p class="ecxMsoNormal"& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; span  
style="color:#1F497D">& # 1 5 4 1 9 ; /span>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; p>& # 2 8 7 3 2 ; class="ecxMsoNormal">& # 2 9 5 0 0 ; pan  
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class="ecxMsoNormal">& # 2 9 5 0 0 ; pan style="color:#1F497D">Megan Schaper,  
SNS& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; span& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /p& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p class="ecxMsoNormal"& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; span  
style="color:#1F497D">Food Service Director& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; span& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /p& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p  
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Parkwa& # 1 5 4 8 1 ; /span>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; p>& # 2 8 7 3 2 ; class="ecxMsoNormal">& # 2 9 5 0 0 ; pan  
style="color:#1F497D">State College, PA 1680& # 1 5 4 0 9 ; /span>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; p>& # 2 8 7 3 2 ;  
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class="ecxMsoNormal"& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; span style="color:#1F497D">phone: 814-231-  
5093& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; span& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /p& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p class="ecxMsoNormal"& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; span  
style="color:#1F497D">fax: 814-231-5444& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; span& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /p& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p  
class="ecxMsoNormal"& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; span style="color:#1F497D">email:  
mas15@scasd.or& # 1 5 4 6 3 ; /span>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; p>& # 2 8 7 3 2 ; class="ecxMsoNormal">& # 2 9 5 0 0 ; pan  
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family:"Tahoma","sans-serif">From:& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; span& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /b& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; span style="font-size:10.0pt;font-  
family:"Tahoma","sans-serif"> Mealtalk: For professionals operating Child Nutrition Programs [<mailto:Mealtalk@nal.usda.gov>]  
Of& # 1 5 3 9 2 ; /b>Aubin, Bria& # 1 5 4 7 0 ; br& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; b>Sent& # 1 5 4 1 8 ; /b> Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:32  
AM& # 2 5 1 4 8 ; r>& # 2 5 1 4 8 ; >To:& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; b>  
Mealtalk@NAL.USDA.GOV& # 2 5 1 4 8 ; r>& # 2 5 1 4 8 ; >Subject& # 1 5 4 1 8 ; /b> [Mealtalk] Interesting to  
know& # 1 5 4 0 6 ; /span>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; p>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; div>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; div>& # 2 8 7 3 2 ;  
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meals" target="\_blank">[http://www.foodservicedirector.com/news/articles/court-says-schools-not-labile-allergens-contained-school-  
meals](http://www.foodservicedirector.com/news/articles/court-says-schools-not-labile-allergens-contained-school-<br/>meals)& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; a>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; p>& # 2 8 7 3 2 ; class="ecxMsoNormal">& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; p>& # 2 8 7 3 2 ;  
class="ecxMsoNormal">& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; p>& # 2 8 7 3 2 ; class="ecxMsoNormal">& # 2 9 5 0 0 ; pan style="font-family:"Times New

Roman","serif">Brian Aubi& # 1 5 4 7 0 ; /span>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; p>& # 2 8 7 3 2 ; class="ecxMsoNormal">& # 2 9 5 0 0 ; pan style="font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">Director of Child Nutrition Services& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; span& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /p& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p class="ecxMsoNormal"& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; span style="font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">Crosby I.S.D.& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; span& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /p& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p class="ecxMsoNormal"& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; span style="font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">706 Runneburg Rd.& # 1 5 3 9 2 ; /span>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; p>& # 2 8 7 3 2 ; class="ecxMsoNormal">& # 2 9 5 0 0 ; pan style="font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">Crosby, TX 77532& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; span& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /p& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p class="ecxMsoNormal"& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; span style="font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">Phone: 281-328-9200 Ext: 1250& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; span& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /p& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p class="ecxMsoNormal"& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; span style="font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">Fax: 281-328-9240& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; span& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /p& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p class="ecxMsoNormal"& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; span style="font-family:"Arial","sans-serif">& # 2 4 8 9 2 ; href="mailto:baubin@crosbyisd.org">baubin@crosbyisd.org& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; a>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; span& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /p& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p class="ecxMsoNormal">& # 1 5 4 1 9 ; /p& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p class="ecxMsoNormal">& # 1 5 4 1 9 ; /p& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p class="ecxMsoNormal">& # 1 5 4 1 9 ; /p& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /div& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; p class="ecxMsoNormal"& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; span style="font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.& # 1 5 3 9 2 ; /span>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; p>& # 2 8 7 3 2 ; class="ecxMsoNormal">& # 2 9 5 0 0 ; pan style="font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Times New Roman","serif">\*\*\*\*\* The Mealtalk list facilitates information exchange. The sender is responsible for content. If you have any questions or problems, contact the list owner at & # 2 4 8 9 2 ; href="mailto:owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov">owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; a>. & # 1 2 0 9 2 ; span& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /p>If you would like to have your name removed from the Mealtalk list, please send an email to& # 1 5 3 9 2 ; a href="mailto:owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov">owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov& # 1 5 4 7 8 ; /a>. Use the subject "Unsubscribe" and place the word "unsubscribe" in the body of then email. Please be sure to include the email address that you originally signed up with.& # 1 5 3 9 2 ; BR>Mealtalk Purpose and Procedures:& # 2 4 8 9 2 ; href="http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/discussion.html" target="\_blank">http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/discussion.htm& # 1 5 4 6 8 ; /a>& # 1 6 9 5 6 ; R>Visit the Healthy Meals Resource System& # 2 4 8 9 2 ; href="http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov" target="\_blank">http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov& # 1 5 4 7 8 ; /a>\*\*\*\*\*& # 1 5 3 9 2 ; BR& # 1 5 4 2 2 ; /div>\*\*\*\*\* The Mealtalk list facilitates information exchange. The sender is responsible for content. If you have any questions or problems, contact the list owner at& # 1 5 3 9 2 ; a href="mailto:owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov">owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov& # 1 5 4 7 8 ; /a>. If you would like to have your name removed from the Mealtalk list, please send an email to& # 2 4 8 9 2 ; href="mailto:owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov">owner-mealtalk@ars.usda.gov& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; a>. Use the subject "Unsubscribe" and place the word "unsubscribe" in the body of then email. Please be sure to include the email address that you originally signed up with.& # 1 5 3 7 0 ; BR>Mealtalk Purpose and Procedures:& # 2 4 8 9 2 ; href="http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/discussion.html" target="\_blank">http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/discussion.htm& # 1 5 4 6 8 ; /a>& # 1 5 3 7 0 ; BR>Visit the Healthy Meals Resource System& # 1 5 3 9 2 ; a href="http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov" target="\_blank">http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; a>\*\*\*\*\*& # 1 6 9 5 6 ; R>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; div>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; div>& # 1 2 0 9 2 ; body>& # 1 5 3 7 0 ; /html>

T H I S e l e c t r o n i c m e s s a g e c o n t a i n s i n f o r m a t i o n g e n e r a t e d b y  
t h e U S D A s o l e l y f o r t h e i n t e n d e d r e c i p i e n t s . A n y  
u n a u t h o r i z e d i n t e r c e p t i o n o f t h i s m e s s a g e o r t h e u s e o r  
d i s c l o s u r e o f t h e i n f o r m a t i o n i t c o n t a i n s m a y v i o l a t e t h e  
l a w a n d s u b j e c t t h e v i o l a t o r t o c i v i l

o r c r i m i n a l p e n a l t i e s . I f y o u b e l i e v e y o u h a v e r e c e i v e d  
t h i s m e s s a g e i n e r r o r , p l e a s e n o t i f y t h e s e n d e r a n d d e l e t e  
t h e e m a i l i m m e d i a t e l y .

\*\*\*\*\*  
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Visit the Healthy Meals Resource System <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov>

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Visit the Healthy Meals Resource System <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov>

-----  
Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2012 18:52:59 +0000  
From: "Stapley, Desiree" <Desiree.Stapley@ARS.USDA.GOV>  
Subject: USDA Foods Banner Kit now available

Dear MealTalkers,

After lots of inquiries, Food and Nutrition Service is pleased to announce that they have finally developed and published the USDA Foods Banner

Kit<<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/foods/healthy/ToolKit.htm>> which is now in the USDA Foods Toolkit. It takes a minute or so to load, but will give our program partners the resources they need to re-create colorful USDA Foods message banners for their organizations.

Hope everyone has a terrific weekend,

Regards,  
Desiree

Desiree Stapley | Child Nutrition Team | Food and Nutrition Information Center | National Agricultural Library | 301.504.6366 |  
desiree.stapley@ars.usda.gov<<mailto:maryann.leonard@ars.usda.gov>>

<http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/>  
<http://teamnutrition.usda.gov/>

Follow @TeamNutrition <http://twitter.com/TeamNutrition>

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\*\*\*\*\*

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Mealtalk Purpose and Procedures: <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/discussion.html>

Visit the Healthy Meals Resource System <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov>

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End of Mealtalk Digest - 8 Mar 2012 to 11 Mar 2012 (#2012-15)

\*\*\*\*\*



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Emailing: Will BPI's Plant Closures Affect America's Ground Beef.htm  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:07:09 AM  
**Attachments:** [Will BPI's Plant Closures Affect America's Ground Beef.htm](#)

---

This is a more accurate story regarding the lean beef technology and all the hoopla surrounding it.

Dr. (b) (6) is a well respected food microbiologist and knows the regulated industry and FSIS well.

This will undoubtedly impact 18226 as they were using the "finely textured beef" in their formula.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Emailing: Yummy! Ammonia-Treated Pink Slime Now in Most U.S. Ground Beef Environment AlterNet.htm  
**Date:** Sunday, January 15, 2012 6:57:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [Yummy! Ammonia-Treated Pink Slime Now in Most U.S. Ground Beef Environment AlterNet.htm](#)

---

Hi (b) (6)

Where you aware of this when all of this was going? I'm embarrassed to say I was not.

(b) (6) Investigator  
Compliance and Investigations Division  
Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement, and Review  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: (248) 968-1420  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

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interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately."

**From:** [Taylor, Kimberly A - APHIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FAVOR  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 1:52:15 PM

---

Could you please send me any language you've developed addressing the pink slime issue? One of our folks in particular is being inundated, and we thought it made more sense just to answer using the language you've developed (rather than forwarding to you). Thanks so much, (b) (6)

Kim

Kim Taylor  
Assistant Director  
LPA-Executive Communications  
APHIS-USDA  
2B-02C  
Unit 49, 4700 River Road  
Riverdale, Maryland 20737

**\*\*Please note new phone # : (301) 851-4089\*\***

**From:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**To:** [Van, Diane - FSIS; \(b\) \(6\) - FSIS; Waggoner, Jason - FSIS; \(b\) \(6\) - FSIS; \(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** February 2012 web mail report  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 4:31:17 PM

---

Hi everyone.

For the month of February 2012 there were 216 inquiries to the MPHotline web mail box.

The top topics were:

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 1. | FSIS inspection issues:  | 40 |
| 2. | Foodservice, retail issues and complaints                        | 26 |
| 3. | Safe storage (freezing, refrigerating, shelf stable):            | 25 |
| 4. | Labeling issues, including food product dating                   | 18 |
| 5. | Safe food handling, including the 2 hour rule and other mishaps: | 14 |
| 6. | Lego League:   | 3  |
| 7. | Humane slaughter   | 1  |
| 8. | Biotechnology/cloning  | 2  |
| 9. | Pink slime:  | 2  |

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

Food Safety Education Staff

Food Safety and Inspection Service

phone: (b) (6)

fax: (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; (b) (6) @gmail.com  
**Subject:** FINAL draft of your text  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 6:55:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [Strategic Goal 3-CB Presentation to MC and OFS 3-21 FINAL DRAFT.docx](#)

---

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** [Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#); [McIntire, Richard - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS; [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FOIA Report, week ending 3/30/2012 (7204513)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 3:08:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [Significant FOIA Report ending March 30, 2012.docx](#)

---

Nichele Derrickson,  
*Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175 - South Building

Phone: (202) 720-9113  
Fax: (202) 720-5704

[nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Following up to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:14:04 PM

---

Re: Mr. Hellmer's e-mail.

Spoke with Jeff Canavan about this and am looping him in case he wishes to expand on this.

"Fresh" can be used to describe ammoniated beef. The ammonia has momentary affect and no functional or technical effects in the finished meat or poultry product. It is an antimicrobial intervention, but it is not an added substance.

Rene, we will follow up with a letter to Mr. Hellmer on this (7196210). Thank you, again, (b) (6) for bringing this forward.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW. . Room 1166 . Washington D.C. 20250  
(b) (6) (W) . (202) 720-7609 (F) . (b) (6) (C)  
e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe. **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:41 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

Thanks (b) (6)

Theresa, please take a look at this.

Thanks.

Rene' Cardwell  
Deputy Director, ECIMS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Room 1163-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250

(202) 720-9945- Office  
(202) 503-7113- BB  
(202) 205-0158- Fax

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:39 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

To All,

There are occasions when correspondent will reply back even when I say not to reply to this mailbox. I normally just ignore their reply backs after I read them but I thought that this might be something that you might want to look into. Thanks

---

**From:** Bruce A. Hellmer, P.E. [mailto:(b) (6)@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:26 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

Thank you for the information. However, the letter from Daniel L. Engeljohn, Ph.D. dated March 29, 2012 is in conflicts with the policy he referenced.

Engeljohn wrote:

*FSIS policy would not prohibit the use of the claim "fresh" on ground beef in which lean finely textured beef is used as an ingredient.*

From USDA Food Standards and Labeling policy book:

*FRESH," "NOT FROZEN" AND SIMILAR TERMS WHEN LABELING MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS:*

*The word —fresh" may not be used to describe:*

...

*7. Any product treated with an antimicrobial substance or irradiated.*

...

I suggest that "Pink Slime" fumigated with poisonous ammonia gas to kill antimicrobials should be considered a "product treated with an antimicrobial substance".

I request a reply addressing this apparent conflict.

Bruce A. Hellmer  
610 NE Swann Circle  
Lee's Summit, MO. 64086  
(816) 525-0584  
(b) (6) [hotmail.com](mailto:(b) (6)@hotmail.com)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:28 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

\*\*\*\*PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MAILBOX\*\*\*\*

Dear Sir or Madam:

Attached is the response to your email sent to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool on March 15, 2012, regarding the labeling of fresh ground beef. I hope that the response provided is very helpful to you. Thanks

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** [Robert Hess](#)  
**To:** [Robert Hess](#)  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FOLLOW-UP: McDonald's confirms that it's no longer using 'pink slime' chemical in hamburgers | The Sideshow  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:42:09 PM

---

Michael Moss, the Pulitzer prize winning Journalist with the New York times did a full blown investigation on this "Pink Slime" or "Soylant Pink" as many called it. My good friend and food Safety Consultant Carl Custer, a well known and renowned food microbiologist, contributed a great deal of information to Mr. Moss during this investigation.

I also stand corrected in that I said Millions of pounds of this Pink Slime are produced yearly....More than 7 Million pounds a week are produced.

Here is the NEW YORK TIMES article that was published on December 31, 2009:

[http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/m/michael\\_moss/index.html?inline=nyt-per](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/m/michael_moss/index.html?inline=nyt-per)

OR, you can read it below.

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** For Phil's call - two employee names  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:54:58 AM

---

**Gerald Zirnstein** who, in an USDA memo, first coined the term “pink slime” and is now coming forward to say he won’t buy it. “It’s economic fraud,” he told ABC News. “It’s not fresh ground beef. ... It’s a cheap substitute being added in.”

Zirnstein and his fellow USDA scientist, **Carl Custer**, both warned against using what the industry calls “lean finely textured beef,” widely known now as “pink slime,” but their government bosses overruled them.

Story here:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#); [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS -FSIS](#); [Nintemann, Terri - FSIS](#); [Alvares, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Bcc:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW Talking point for OFS - Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:37:43 AM  
**Attachments:** [DRAFT School Lunch LFTB 2009 NYT article March 22 2012.docx](#)  
[Complete BPI Timeline 12.13.09.doc](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

---

Colleagues,

Attached (and below) is a DRAFT response to those pulling from the Dec. 2009 NYT piece on the safety of LFTB. Given the pressing time constraints, I'm sending to the whole group at once.

Additionally, we are working to update the Dec. 13, 2009 timeline attached, which only focuses on one of the four BPI plants – expand and update to the extent possible. Best ~ Brian

**March 22, 2012**

**Jerry Hagstrom Question**

**Questions regarding a 2009 report found that it was four times more likely to test positive for salmonella than traditional ground beef – as cited by Senator Tester in his March 19, 2012 Press Release, appear to draw on a December 31, 2009 New York Times story by Michael Moss <sup>[1]</sup> in which the Times writes:**

*“E. coli and salmonella pathogens have been found dozens of times in Beef Products meat, challenging claims by the company and the U.S.D.A. about the effectiveness of the treatment. Since 2005, E. coli has been found 3 times and salmonella 48 times, including back-to-back incidents in August in which two 27,000-pound batches were found to be contaminated. The meat was caught before reaching lunch-room trays.*

- On Dec 8, 2009, FSIS determined BPI ammoniated lean beef trimming products are subject to *E.coli* O157:H7 testing after a Food Safety Assessment (which ended on Oct. 15, 2009) identified that the chips should be subject to routine FSIS verification sampling. Since then, there have been no positive tests for *E. coli* O157:H7, representing 51 total agency samples to date from the four different plants.
- Even before the reporter told USDA of his independent research regarding the Beef Products meat, consistent with our policy and practice, FSIS tested product at BPI during follow up sampling triggered by a supplier notification in STEPs – all FSIS results were negative.

**BACKGROUND on the 3 *E. coli* positives referenced in the article:**

AMS sampling reflects the following: in reviewing records from BPI from December 2006, a total of 1,138 samples were tested for *E. coli* O157:H7 by the AMS Designated Laboratory. Out of those 1,138 samples, two results were positive, both from their South Sioux City plant. The first was from July 11, 2008 and the next was August 10, 2009. There were 326 samples tested between the two positives with no findings of *E. Coli* O157:H7.

BPI produces this product for AMS at four locations; Waterloo, IA, Amarillo, TX, Finney County, KS, and South Sioux City, NE.

- AMS Testing (up to Dec. 2009)



3 positives over the last 4 years:

- 4-4-06 - AMS sample positive
- 7-11-08 - AMS positive on LFTB
- 8-10-09 - AMS positive on LFTB (ammoniated-chips). There were 326 samples tested under the AMS contract between the last two positives with no findings of *E. coli* O157:H7.

FSIS Testing (up to Dec. 2009)

FSIS tested product at BPI during follow up sampling in response to a supplier notification in STEPS – all FSIS results were negative.

- 7/14/2008, a single sample, component in STEPS
- 7/21-8/12/2008, a 16 sample set following the AMS positive
- 8/26-10/2/2008, a 16 sample set based on a second STEPS entry
- 8/10 /2009, a single STEPS entry, single sample

# # #

**Brian K. Mabry**

**Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs**

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891

tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460

[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)

[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:18 AM

**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Alvares, Christopher - FSIS

**Cc:** Nintemann, Terri - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Thanks. Please share information with us as soon as you have it.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator

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<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:14 AM

**To:** Alvares, Christopher - FSIS

**Cc:** Nintemann, Terri - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS

**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Background on BPI issue.  
Carol, ODIFP is pulling our data.  
David Goldman, MD, MPH  
Assistant Administrator  
USDA-FSIS-OPHS  
202-720-2644  
-----

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

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**From:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 08:08 AM  
**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

I don't think we ever developed talking points to respond to the BPI Moss story. But we need to – looping in Carol. What is our response to those data findings? They are a couple of years old now. BPI's response in the article is essentially "we're not perfect" and that their testing was more likely to find contamination.

Here's the link to the story: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/31/us/31meat.html?pagewanted=all>

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**From:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:22 AM  
**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

We removed that exemption in 2009, though- we should have data, right?

---

**From:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:21 AM  
**To:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

We (FSIS) have not been sampling this product--it has an exemption. It could refer to AMS or some other sampling program. We'll find out.

David Goldman, MD, MPH  
Assistant Administrator  
USDA-FSIS-OPHS  
202-720-2644  
-----

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

---

**From:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:04 AM  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

? Pls advise

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:00 AM  
**To:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

What 2009 report is he referring to that found higher levels of salmonella?

---

**From:** DeJong, Justin - OC  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 10:17 PM  
**To:** Baenig, Brian - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Lavalley, Aaron - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Cc:** Paul, Matt - OC  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

flagging.

---

**From:** Hagstrom, Jerry [mailto:JHagstrom@nationaljournal.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 10:14 PM  
**To:** DeJong, Justin - OC  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

I will write about this Tuesday, Tell me if you want to react to this.

---

**From:** Helling, Andrea (Tester) [mailto:Andrea\_Helling@tester.senate.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 05:00 PM  
**Subject:** RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MARCH 19, 2012



### **Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'** *Senator questions food product's possible long-term health effects*

(U.S. SENATE) – Senator Jon Tester is calling on the USDA to take “pink slime” off school lunch menus – and replace it with high-quality Montana beef.

While the USDA recently announced plans to give schools a ground beef option that doesn't use “pink slime,” the agency continued with plans to purchase seven million pounds of the highly processed food product – even as fast food chains like McDonalds pull it from their shelves.

“Pink slime” is a ground beef filler treated with ammonia. The USDA considers it to be safe, but a 2009 report found that it was four times more likely to test positive for salmonella than traditional ground beef.

Tester says too many questions remain about “pink slime” to serve it to children.

“It is tone deaf and inappropriate to purchase a large quantity of this product to feed children even as it is decisively rejected by consumers,” Tester wrote Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “The food that we provide our children should not be over-processed waste, and the quality of the meat created by the process has been called into question.”

Tester also wants the USDA to allow schools to replace “pink slime” with local foods – like Montana beef.

Tester's *Local Food, Farms and Jobs Act* gives schools the flexibility needed to use their USDA commodity dollars on locally-grown foods.

"Montana produces the best beef in the world," Tester told Vilsack. "Rather than doubling down on hyper-processed products like 'pink slime,' USDA should be looking to improve students' meals and local economies at the same time."

Tester is working to include his bill in the upcoming Farm Bill. It is available online [HERE](#).

Text of Tester's letter to Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack is available below and online [HERE](#).

###

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue  
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

In the past week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been the target of significant concerns over the agency's choice to procure seven million pounds of a highly processed product known as "lean finely textured beef." This product, commonly known as "pink slime," has met resistance from parents and consumer advocates. I share their belief that trimmings treated with ammonia are not what consumers expect when they are served ground beef.

While I appreciate the USDA allowing schools for the first time to proactively choose not to use products containing "pink slime," I remain concerned that USDA considers it appropriate to serve it at all. While the USDA continues to insist that "pink slime" is not dangerous for consumers, I question the low standards such a statement endorses. I am concerned that these standards permit the use of harsh chemicals to treat beef trimmings despite the fact that the effectiveness of this treatment, the safety of the processed trimmings, and the quality of the meat created by the process have all been called into question.

In recent months, many national restaurant chains have responded to consumers' rejection of "pink slime" by eliminating it from their products. These restaurants recognize that consumers have growing concerns about and distaste for "pink slime." It is tone deaf and inappropriate to purchase a large quantity of this product to feed children even as it is decisively rejected by consumers. The food that we provide our children should not be over-processed waste, it should be wholesome, high-quality food to nourish their growing bodies and minds.

I would also mention that Montana produces the best beef in the world, but school nutrition officials who wish to use their USDA commodity dollars to procure food locally are unable to do so. That is one of the reasons several other senators and I introduced the Local Food, Farms and Jobs Act, which would allow schools to use their commodity dollars to incorporate fresh local meat and produce into students' meals. Rather than doubling down on hyper-processed products like "pink slime," USDA should be looking for ideas, like the Local Food, Farms and Jobs Act, to improve students' meals and local economies at the same time. This is the quality food we should be providing our children. I appreciate your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,  
(s)  
Senator Jon Tester

**Contact:** Andrea Helling or Dan Malessa - (202) 228-0371

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[1] **"Safety of Beef Processing Method is Questioned"**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/31/us/31meat.html?pagewanted=all>

**From:** [STEPHANIE ARMOUR \(BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:\)](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** From Stephanie  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:28:54 PM

---

Hey Dirk, I was just nagging you on the pink slime release.

----- Original Message -----

From: STEPHANIE ARMOUR (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)  
To: Dirk.Fillpot@fsis.usda.gov  
At: 3/08 13:01:43

Say, what can you tell me about pink slime? :)

-

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: - pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:01:38 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: FSIS Webmaster  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:22 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: - pink slime

Please see the attached  
Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) @sbcglobal.net [mailto:(b) (6) @sbcglobal.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:32 PM  
To: FSIS Webmaster  
Subject: Message from Internet User - pink slime

I am very concerned about pink slime being allowed in any food consumed by humans of any age. I also realize this is a big profit builder for meat industries in the USA, but other well heeled countries will not allow this product in their human food. Please reconsider your position on this product being fed to consumers in this country. The cost of health care for our government is already out of control and we do not need garbage like this added to our diets to place our health in danger. There is no person alive more pro capitalist than I, but there should be some limits as to cost efficiency and the quality of food offered to the consumer. I will also be contacting my legislators to push them on reversing this very poor decision made on your departments part and the poor conscious of the producers.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: - Use of Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:55:04 AM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
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(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 2:27 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: - Use of Pink Slime

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) gmail.com [mailto:(b) (6) gmail.com]  
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 10:49 AM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - Use of Pink Slime

To Agriculture Secretary Vilsack:

This verbiage below is from Change.org, but pretty much mirrors my opinion and I wanted to ask you to act upon this issue. This request is to regulate and stop the use of this product in human food, especially our childrens food, regardless of who produces it (Beef Products, Inc. or whoever).

Please put an immediate end to the use of "pink slime" in our children's school food.

As you know, "pink slime" is the term used for a mixture of cooking oil, connective tissue and beef scraps (formerly used only for pet food and rendering) that is treated with ammonia hydroxide to remove pathogens like salmonella and E coli. These so-called "Lean Beef Trimmings," are produced by Beef Products, Inc.

Two former government microbiologists claim that, for political reasons, pink slime was approved for human consumption by USDA over serious safety concerns.



Government and industry records obtained by The New York Times in 2009 showed that "in testing for the school lunch program, E. coli and salmonella pathogens have been found dozens of times in Beef Products meat, challenging claims by the company and the U.S.D.A. about the effectiveness of the treatment. Since 2005, E. coli has been found 3 times and salmonella 48 times, including back-to-back incidents in August in which two 27,000-pound batches were found to be contaminated. The meat was caught before reaching lunch-rooms trays."

Even apart from safety concerns, it is simply wrong to feed our children connective tissues and beef scraps that were, in the past, destined for use in pet food and rendering and were not considered fit for human consumption.

Due to public outcry, fast food giants like McDonald's and Burger King have stopped using pink slime in their food. But the federal government continues to allow its use in school food and has just authorized the purchase of ground beef which collectively contains an additional 7 million pounds of pink slime for consumption by our nation's children.

We care deeply about our children's health and ask that you and the USDA immediately put a stop to the use of pink slime in the National School Lunch Program.

Thank you.  
David Gillis

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: - why are you serving kids pink slime in school?  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:00:13 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
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-----Original Message-----

From: FSIS Webmaster  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:56 AM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: - why are you serving kids pink slime in school?

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) yahoo.com [mailto:(b) (6) yahoo.com]  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 12:31 PM  
To: FSIS Webmaster  
Subject: Message from Internet User - why are you serving kids pink slime in school?

The USDA is buying millions of pounds of pink slime meat to put in school lunches. The UK has banned humans from eating it. McDonalds and Taco bell have stoped using it. Yet here in our lovely country the very people who are supposed to protect our food is going to feed it to our kids? What the hell is going on? Tom Vilsack came up with this? You feed your kids this crap? Why worry about terrorists messing up our food supply when the USDA is doing it just fine. I had your suckutary hang up on me 3 times. She cant answer any questions it seems and maybe she likes her kids to eat pink slime. My child will never eat any school food...EVER. You people also need to label this crap in the food chains so we know what we are eating. Tom you must be as corrupt as all the other government people. Trying to kill Americans with the food they eat. I would like a reply as a American who was born in this country. I think you people just dont give a crap anymore. Great thanks for doing your job Tom VILSACK...and the rest of the USDA. I also assume the FDA is also fine with this. What is going on with this country?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: - Finely Textured Lean Beef  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:53:38 AM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 2:16 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: - Finely Textured Lean Beef

Please see the attached.  
Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) austin.rr.com [mailto:(b) (6) austin.rr.com]  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 5:33 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - Finely Textured Lean Beef

Please immediately outlaw the use of "Finely Textured Lean Beef" (FTLB) also known as "pink slime", in all human food products. Would you eat FTLB? I cannot believe the USDA allows FTLB to be added to meat products and doesn't require it's disclosure on food labels!

Make food companies disclose ingredients and processing details that they and the USDA know consumers want to know! Do the right thing!

Respectfully,  
David King

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: LFTB (pink slime)  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 3:15:45 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 5:51 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: LFTB (pink slime)

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) mchsi.com [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\) mchsi.com](mailto:(b) (6) mchsi.com)]  
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 6:23 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - LFTB (pink slime)

I believe I have the right to know what is in beef when I purchase it. The recent disclosure of you not forcing retail sellers to declare if they have LFTB in their beef selections forces us to discontinue the purchase of these products.

Respectfully,

Pat Ross

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime in meat  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 3:21:05 PM

---

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 6:27 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Pink Slime in meat

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) att.net [mailto:(b) (6) att.net]  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:52 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime in meat

I am so disheartened nobody felt it helpful or necessary to grade hamburger honestly. I have been unemployed and purchased the most inexpensive hamburger because of finances. Sadly, I have discovered there is no fat in my cheap hamburger! I am not disputing any claim that the meat is healthy or not. What I am saying is that I would like my packaging honestly labeled. Grizzle and bones might be okay for kids but extremely insensitive and thoughtless toward our elderly citizens.

When I buy hamburger and it says 80% meat, I would assumed the 20% to be fat. (That is the presumption on the label also). I had noticed my super percentaged "fat" hamburger was not at all greasy when cooking and found that rather odd. I purchase a lot of hamburger because it is easier for my elderly parent to chew than either steak or roast. Well, it used to be easier. I have discovered more and more, my dear mother is unable to chew her hamburger! I had wondered why. I also noticed I no longer can depend of the natural grease one would expect from high fat hamburger and that also perplexed me. So much for an ultra juicy hamburger!

Recently I was educated to why I need to cook my hamburger differently and why my poor elderly Mother cannot chew the hamburger. (And wouldn't you know I just bought many pounds because it was on sale!) I learned on the news that my hamburger does not have fat, but rather "pink slime". I bought the hamburger expecting easy to chew food and did we ever get cheated! In case you were not informed, high fat hamburger should be swallow-able without serious chewing. One should be able to

gum hamburger (eat without teeth) and that is not so easy anymore.

Sadly I have too much of that meat in my freezer but I will not purchase any more. If I want honest ground beef, it appears I will have to grind my own meat. I do not want my mother starving to death because she cannot chew the pink slime that is in the hamburger I already have bought. I have found we are already eating more chicken and turkey and I guess as long as I live with my dear Mom and do not want to cook separate meals, eating beef will become a rarity in our home.

In view of the fact that some hamburger has fat while the other has pink slime; it is impossible to tell by looking at the packaging and it is problematic for a cook to know what to expect because consistency is now gone. Labels do not accurately identify what we are buying. Oh, and one more thing! Why is the pink slime dumped in ammonia and not radiated? I had heard radiated meat is the future for meat as pasteurization has been for milk.

Sincerely  
Theresa Rogers

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: - pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:54:04 AM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 2:24 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: - pink slime

Please see the attached

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)@woodhengefarm.com [mailto:(b) (6)@woodhengefarm.com]  
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 7:48 AM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - pink slime

Hello, I am so angry and totally disgusted with USDA that I want to fight! You people, all of you, for all the good you seem to do have allowed the American public to be fed a bunch of CRAP. Through the use of "pink slime", you have allowed the meat industry to sell us cheap by-products for the same price as high price products. This action is no less than fraud and you are guilty. If there isn't already a class action suit against USDA and those who work for USDA, there soon will be. Also, the addition of pink slime without labeling is obvious proof that a significant amount of USDA employees work more for the meat producers than they do for the American public, and we will no longer stand for this kind of inappropriateness.

No thanks to you,  
M. Stanley

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 11:14:09 AM

---

Could you draft a response?

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1162-S  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** FSIS Webmaster  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:10 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) @cox.net [mailto:(b) (6) @cox.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:39 AM  
**To:** FSIS Webmaster  
**Subject:** Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Pink slime is a colloquial term for ammoniated boneless lean beef trimmings or similar products, which are considered "unfit for human consumption" until ammonia has been added. The product is sold by a number of beef processing companies, including Cargill Meat Solutions and Beef Products, Inc. The lean beef sold by BPI has become known for increasing the pH of the beef trimmings by adding ammonium hydroxide to remove pathogens such as E. coli and Salmonella, while the Cargill product uses antimicrobial treatments that lower the pH. This beef product is USDA-approved and is a component (typically less than 25 percent) of a majority of all ground beef in the United States. This is the exact definition of "Pink Slime" according to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. I decided to google it because I was curious after seeing where McD's decided to no longer sell "pink slime" on the news this morning. I'm disgusted that everyone thinks this is okay for Human Consumption. This even!

sounds disgusting & I wouldn't approve nor would I expect Americans or anybody to eat anything that has been in contact with ammonia. As an American Citizen I have the right to know if I'm eating beef or anything for that matter that's been in contact with ammonia. It shouldn't be allowed & if they're going to insist on doing it they should be required by law to have it on the labels!



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: - pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:51:37 AM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
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Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: FSIS Webmaster  
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 8:40 AM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: - pink slime

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) comcast.net [mailto:(b) (6) comcast.net]  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 6:56 PM  
To: FSIS Webmaster  
Subject: Message from Internet User - pink slime

why won't you talk to ABC news (Diane Sawyer) about pink slime. Why are you stonewalling her?

**From:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: - pink slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:50:08 PM

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Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) gmail.com [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\) gmail.com](mailto:(b) (6) gmail.com)]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:51 AM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - pink slime

To Whom it May Concern:

I recently saw on the news the report about pink slime in meat. I myself do not eat red meat because of reasons like this. How is it okay to allow people to consume meat that is filled with all these additives when in reality are bad for you. Meat is filled with all kinds of antibiotics and many people are not knowledgeable about that because people like your organization tell them it is okay and not harmful. They really dont know what is put into their meat. I am not a vegetarian because of killing animals but because I dont want to be consuming something that isn't natural. Why do you not have stricter regulations in the sense that no additives should be put in meat? Personally I do not want to be consuming all of these antibiotics. Red meat can cause many health problems and if it was all natural I am sure there would be less problems with people's health. I feel that if we're paying for ground beef we shouldn't be paying for "pink slime" or the added ammonia. Why is it that the USDA thinks it is okay to allow people to eat organs that are filled with bacteria? The way that regulations are is disgusting. Dog food is considered to have more meat than what humans are consuming in ground beef. I truly believe that regulations must be changed and more careful attention must be taken at what is being supplied to consumers.

G.Mari Beverly, Ma.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: - pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:22:42 PM

---

Ok - here's the first. More to come....thank you....

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:45 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: - pink slime

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) centurylink.net [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@centurylink.net](mailto:(b) (6)@centurylink.net)]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 6:43 AM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - pink slime

I feel that one it shouldn't be allowed and two if you continue to allow it then at the very least it should be mandatory to be on label. I asked a grocery store in our area and they couldn't tell me if it's in their burger but said they'd check into it. Do you have any type of listing?

Thank you for letting me voice my opinion.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:40:19 PM

---

Could you draft a response?

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 9:17 AM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Pink slime

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)@alltel.net [mailto:(b) (6)@alltel.net]  
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 7:14 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - Pink slime

We do not want processed meat when we are paying for ground beef. We expect 100% beef. You do what you want and we will just shoot deer and buy local beef that is grass feed and save money too. Who's interest are you looking out for?

We don't want chemicals, processed meat unless specified, or hormones.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 3:15:57 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 5:52 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Pink Slime

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) mailzone.com [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@mailzone.com](mailto:(b) (6)@mailzone.com)]  
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 6:52 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Folks,

I have watched the recent news with disgust to find that USDA has allowed meat producers to lace meat with pink slime. This is unacceptable. I urge you to force producers to immediately cease using this product and use ONLY 100% ground beef in products they label as ground beef.

Rick Pingley

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:54:24 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 9:00 AM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Pink Slime

Please see the attached.  
Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) att.net [mailto:(b) (6) att.net]  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:50 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

I can't understand what kind of character anyone has who works for the USDA and makes the decision to send ANY never mind 7 million pounds of "Pink Slime" to public school cafeterias. This is beyond disgusting and horrible. I greatly object to the USDA sending those ammoniated scraps to school children and pretending that it's good and healthy food! This ought to be criminal, it's beyond disgusting and immoral.  
Barbara Watkins

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: - Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:02:04 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:15 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: - Pink Slime

Please see the attached.  
Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) gmail.com [mailto:(b) (6) gmail.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:19 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Your plan to stop pink slime in school lunches but NOT in grocery stores does NOT solve the problem.

YOU are allowing grocers to sell crap as ground beef what part of truth in advertising don't you get?

You want people to believe that the food supply is safe and then you pull this sort of stunt so some former employee can make money by going to work for the people you are suppose to be regulating. This destroys any credibility that you have with the public and will make it impossible for anyone who knows this story to believe you in the future.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: - pink slime/white slime filler  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:25:29 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 5:00 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: - pink slime/white slime filler

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) @socal.rr.com [mailto:(b) (6) @socal.rr.com]  
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:55 AM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - pink slime/white slime filler

Dear USDA : Like many TV Viewers across the Nation, I have recently seen a broadcast report about so-called "pink slime" being used in most ground beef products, without the knowledge of those buying and eating it. Purely for esthetic and nutritional reasons, I'll ask if there is ANYTHING the USDA can do, to encourage meat producers to DISCONTINUE the practice of using "pink slime". If so, PLEASE DO! The USDA will surely then have the gratitude of beef-eaters everywhere. Thanks ... Nancy Alice Foster  
(b) (6) @socal.rr.com



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: - There should be at least a label about Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:01:29 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: FSIS Webmaster  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:21 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: - There should be at least a label about Pink Slime

Please see the attached.  
Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) @yahoo.com [mailto:(b) (6) @yahoo.com]  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:20 AM  
To: FSIS Webmaster  
Subject: Message from Internet User - There should be at least a label about Pink Slime

I don't know if i'm even asking the right people about this topic, however, there should be at least a label on meat products stating if there is 'Pink Slime'. When a person goes to the store to get beef, it is expected that it 100% beef, not 70% beef and 30% spun, sprayed, left over meat trimmings. I am a 14 year old living in California. I know it may not be in your budget or it may not be easy to accomplish, but a product with 'Pink Slime' should at least say that it has 'Pink Slime' in it.  
Thank you in advance.

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) (DCUS/EPU1"; (b) (6)@rubinoinsurance.com"; (b) (6).  
**Subject:** FW:  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:10:26 AM

---

Mechanically separated meat.....gee, I wish we knew someone at the US Dept of meat who could do something about this, (b) (6)

[Watch the video](#)

<http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/01/31/10282876-mcdonalds-drops-use-of-gooey-ammonia-based-pink-slime-in-hamburger-meat>

Even more reason to go organic...

The information contained in this message is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the recipient(s) named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error and that any review, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately, and delete the original message.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW:  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:55:21 AM  
**Attachments:** [Scientist who coined "Pink Slime" reluctant whistleblower.pdf](#)

---

FYI

(b) (6)  
(b) (6) Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Patriots Plaza III, 8-161B  
355 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024-3221  
(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:15 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OPPD/LPDD  
**Subject:**

Beware of what you say in an email . . . .

Sincerely,

(b) (6) Food Technologist  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS  
Telephone: (b) (6)  
Submit your questions to...  
<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>  
[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSYS/Labeling\\_&\\_Consumer\\_Protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSYS/Labeling_&_Consumer_Protection/index.asp)

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [McIntire, Richard - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW:  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:29:32 AM

---

To keep the theme going...!

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

-----Original Message-----

From: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:24 AM  
To: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Cc: Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
Subject: RE:

[http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/in-defense-of-food-safety-leadership/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=120317](http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/in-defense-of-food-safety-leadership/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=120317)

Did we have this in there? I can't remember if I read it at home or in food safety news... If not, let's include it. Thanks!

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:19 AM  
To: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Cc: Mabry, Brian - FSIS

Subject: RE:

Thanks!

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

-----Original Message-----

From: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:18 AM  
To: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
Subject: FW:

For food safety news today. Not sure who is producing.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:44 PM  
To: Almanza, Al - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Subject:

<http://news.discovery.com/human/pink-slime-psychology-120319.html>

Sent from my iPad

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW:  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:43:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [doc20120327083927.pdf](#)

---

See attached. This whole "pink slime" debacle is a good example of the price we pay for having a news industry that is so focused on sensationalized headlines rather than reporting the true story.

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: [#EVERYONE GROUP] " pink slime " clarification - please forward to customers that are concerned about this situation.  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2012 5:59:19 AM  
**Attachments:** [BR-FAX01\\_1203091631246066.PDF](#)

---

Mrs. (b) (6)

“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.”

---

**From:** Lou Masson [mailto:(b) (6)@ppne.biz]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 17, 2012 5:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [#EVERYONE GROUP] " pink slime " clarification - please forward to customers that are concerned about this situation.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)@ppne.biz>  
**Date:** Fri, Mar 9, 2012 at 12:06 PM  
**Subject:** [#EVERYONE GROUP] " pink slime " clarification - please forward to customers that are concerned about this situation.  
**To:** #EVERYONE GROUP <[EVERYONEGROUP@ppne.biz](mailto:EVERYONEGROUP@ppne.biz)>

CORRECTION - PINK SLIME -

Currently we can offer customers a solution to this PINK SLIME situation.  
We can offer HB tested GROUND BEEF. We do not use PINK SLIME in any of our PPNE products.

(b) (6)

PPNE

(b) (6)

--

Lou Masson  
603-263-1610  
800-334-2449 x610  
Fax 603-415-9782  
(b) (6)@ppne.biz

**From:** [John Rooney](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: ???  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:00:43 PM

---

WHAT ABOUT "PINK SLIME"?  
I THOUGHT I LEFT YOU IN CHARGE?  
ARE YOU DRUNK, SLEEPING, ON THE TAKE?????



**From:** (b) (6) -FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) -FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Hot off the Press"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 7:23:45 AM

---

They are talking about the pink slime!

Here is the bug story ...eww

<http://global.christianpost.com/news/starbucks-strawberry-frappuccino-colored-with-bugs-72169/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:58:20 AM

---

If you are assigned any incoming correspondence on the topic of "pink slime" in USDA ground beef purchasing for the School Lunch Program, please see messaging guidance below from Brian Mabry:

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Please pass on to your group.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 5:08:54 PM

---

Hi Brian,

Regarding the OC's guidance on messaging for these "pink slime" inquiries, can you confirm whether or not we are expected to use this language for **\*all\*** pink slime inquiries, or only those that specifically reference the School Lunch Program? My initial impression is that if a constituent is writing about, say, whether or not the ground beef they purchase at Wal Mart "has pink slime in it," a response mentioning USDA ground beef purchases would be unhelpful. It seems to me a more appropriate response would discuss ammonia hydroxide's status as a processing aid, FDA's role in the approval process, suitability v. safety, and so on.

However, if OC is saying that we use the language below in any and all inquiries about this subject, that answers my question.

Thoughts?

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

I'm thinking all letters on this subject since Brian mentions "Most has centered around the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) announcing a purchase of the product (constituting

about 3% (7,000,000 pounds) of their total beef purchases for the year) for the National School Lunch Program.” Since he mentioned “most” of the messaging...” to me, implies beyond NSLP

Can you follow up with Brian for clarity.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Sorry for the recall, but I realized my previous message made little sense. Here's another try:

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:43 PM  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Hi Rene,

Do you think we should use this language for all “pink slime” responses, or only those that reference or allude to the National School Lunch Program ground beef purchases?

(b) (6) mentioned this potential distinction this afternoon, and I think she raises a good point.

On the other hand, I think that most incoming e-mails we've received on “pink slime” in the last two days have the NSLP purchasing program in mind, even if they don't reference it specifically, given the similar tone in each and the timing after the ABC news story ran on Wednesday.

(b) (6) or (b) (6) feel free to chime in with any further thoughts.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Please pass on to your group.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OPACE/Managers; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** "Pink Slime" inquiries

Colleagues,



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:57:05 PM

---

Please advice on how to proceed. Should I answer the emails or ask them to email back in English?

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:55 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Obviously the response depends on the incoming message, but general language you can use for Spanish translation is below:

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:54 AM

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "pink slime" question  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:41:55 AM

---

(b) (6)  
International Policy Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
FAX: 202.720.4929

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:38 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" question

The briefing paper would help greatly for the NAMP meeting.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (202) 368-5457 -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:37 AM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" question

Ok-I'll summarize the issues (or perhaps catch you at one of the meetings we have together).

The Q on NAMP/RCC meeting is what information/material do you and AI need for this discussion?  
(b) (6) can provide a briefing paper that will have the most up-to-date issues/progress/concerns.

(b) (6)  
International Policy Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
FAX: 202.720.4929

---



**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" question

I am fully booked today until 3:30.

- Not sure if a press statement will be made on pink slime. The Department has several meetings scheduled on this today.
- What are the other issues (from below)?
- I am at the NAMP conference and on the agenda with Richard (CFIA) on Friday. Al Almanza also is at the conference.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
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Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:14 AM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "pink slime" question  
**Importance:** High

FAS is asking whether we are responding to this article (and if not, do you think we need to provide anything for use with the Europeans?)

I also have several things I need to discuss with you, if you have time. I can either call or drop by. I am in the office today and first meeting is at 9 am.

1. Canada RTE meeting//letter
2. FRN Foreign Audits (discussion with Phil/Ronald yesterday)
3. Singapore (Anti-microbial Treatments and OIA//OPPD roles and responsibilities)
4. Imported Shell Eggs for Breaking (request from Canada)
5. NAMP//RCC meeting March 16 ? (NAMP, NMA, AMI, MICA, Canada Beef, CFIA, and AMS)
6. Request to speak at NANCA annual meeting (Barbara Negron's requesting)

The North American Natural Casing Association will be holding its annual meeting on Friday April 20, 2012 at the Water Club in New York City. We would like to have a guest speaker from FSIS to come and speak with us regarding the subject of switching from FDA to USDA as the competent authority for regulatory purposes without being subject to the Meat Act.

**(b) (6)**  
International Policy Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development

Food Safety and Inspection Service

Phone: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

FAX: 202.720.4929

---

**From:** (b) (6) (USEU) [mailto:(b) (6)@fas.usda.gov]

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:10 AM

**To:** (b) (6) FAS; (b) (6)

**Cc:** (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) FAS; (b) (6) FAS

**Subject:** "pink slime" question

**Importance:** High

Dear (b) (6) and Mary,

Has FDA or FSIS put out a press release responding to this article? I'd like to know what USDA says about this now. As you know, we're having trouble getting even lactic acid approved as a pathogen reduction treatment here in Europe. We're also not allowed to export hormone treated beef here. This not so scientific or technical reference to this beef filler is detrimental. What's the reality today?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

<http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-slime-8221-beef-180500764.html>

According to [TheDaily.com](http://TheDaily.com), the term "pink slime" was coined by microbiologist Gerald Zirnstein, formerly of the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service. He first saw it being mixed into burger meat when he was touring a Beef Products Inc (BPI) facility in 2002 after an outbreak of salmonella. "Scientists in D.C. were pressured to approve this stuff with minimal safety approval," Zirnstein told The Daily.

"Pink slime," which is officially called "Lean Beef Trimmings," is banned for human consumption in the United Kingdom. It is commonly used in dog and chicken food. Celebrity chef and safe food advocate Jamie Oliver featured the substance and called for its ban on the April 12, 2011 episode of [Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution](http://Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution), which may have influenced McDonald's to stop using beef patties containing the filler.

Reportedly, Zirnstein and his colleague Carl Custer studied the substance and classified it as a "high risk product." Custer, who worked at the Food Safety Inspection service for 35 years, says, "We looked at the product and we objected to it because it used connective tissues instead of muscle. It was simply not nutritionally equivalent [to ground beef]. My main objection was that it was not meat."

Another issue is the ammonium hydroxide, a chemical that is used to kill pathogens such as [E. coli](http://E.coli). The [FDA considers it safe for human consumption](http://FDA considers it safe for human consumption) but a 2009 expose by the [New York Times](http://New York Times) questioned its safety and efficacy. Some food advocates are asking for meat containing "pink slime" to be labeled. It's used in about 70% of ground beef in the US. "We

don't know which districts are receiving what meat, and this meat isn't labeled to show pink slime. They don't have to under federal law," Bettina Siegal, a writer and mother of two who created [TheLunchTray.com](http://TheLunchTray.com) told [NBC](http://NBC). Siegel has started [a petition](#) to demand the USDA stop using the product in the National School Lunch Program.

(b) (6)

Senior Agriculture Attachés

FAS/USDA

U.S. Mission to the European Union

Brussels, Belgium

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "pink slime" question  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:05:22 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

FYI-when I raised the question this morning, we had not put anything out officially, though (b) (6) indicated there were several meetings scheduled at the Department level.

I just had a call from AMS ((b) (6)) whether "pink slime" (ammonium hydroxide-treated ground connective tissue and meat scraps) is banned in Europe and an e-mail from (b) (6) asking whether Europe (specifically UK) restricts consumption of beef trimmings.

According to the article beef trimmings are banned for human consumption in the UK, is that true. And I would appreciate your input on the decision memo when you have a chance.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:10 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** LA Times Story

Posted 20 minutes ago

'This is also in their Hot Topics header on each web page under the heading Pink Slime

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-pink-slime-20120309,0,1330346.story>

If any of you have answers, please respond to (b) (6) E ASAP. If you are getting calls-be alert to the media attention this has.

Thanks.

(b) (6)  
International Policy Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
FAX: 202.720.4929

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:40:31 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 9:18 AM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: "Pink Slime"

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) gmail.com [mailto:(b) (6) gmail.com]  
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 8:05 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - "Pink Slime"

I just saw on ABC's evening news that the under secretary attended an inspection tour of the "Pink Slime" manufacturer. I can't believe you are DEFENDING this product!  
I have the right to know if "pink slime" is in the meat I am about to purchase for my family's consumption. All consumers in this country should be able to make an "Informed Decision" when purchasing food. Fair practice mandates grocery stores label meat when it contains "Pink Slime". I WILL NOT purchase any meat with this garbage in it.

Add me to the NO PINK SLIME side of this argument.

An angry consumer,

Linda Gilbert  
(b) (6)  
Brighton, MI 48116

**From:** [Van, Diane - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:25:19 AM

---

Janet Riley at American Meat Institute wants info on "pink slime." Can you give her your talking points?

Diane Van  
Deputy Director, Food Safety Education Staff  
Office of Public Affairs & Consumer Education  
USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service  
5601 Sunnyside Ave., 2-L292  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301-344-4777 Phone  
301-504-0203 Fax  
202-306-3857 Blackberry

---

**From:** (b) (6)@meatami.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:48 PM  
**To:** mphotline.fsis@usda.gov  
**Subject:** "Pink Slime"

What information are you providing to those who call and email about "pink slime" or more accurately, lean finely textured beef?

I was just on a conference call with about 40 retail grocers and they'd like to know what USDA is saying and what their customers will be told if they refer them to the hotline. Thanks so much.

**Janet M. Riley**  
**Senior Vice President, Public Affairs & Member Services**  
**American Meat Institute**  
**President, National Hot Dog & Sausage Council**  
**202/587-4245 (office) or (b) (6) (cell)**

[Register today and be a part of the biggest AMI Expo ever -- 25,000 people and 1,200 exhibitors in Dallas on May 1-3, 2012.](#)



---

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:14:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm](#)

---

Hello hope you are good. Just in case you have not heard this yet. I lost your cell number could you text it to me at (b) (6)

Thanks,

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:37 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

Amazing what they (FSIS management) can get away with, glad to hear that USDA/FSIS scientist blew the whistle on this one!

It's slow, please wait for it to load, ok.

V/R,

(b) (6)

Import Inspector

USDA, FSIS

Office of International Affairs, IID



(b) (6)



(956) 727-4502



(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

*Please consider the environment before printing this email*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC Evening News segment last night  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 7:30:08 AM

---

Good morning

Did you happen to see the ABC Evening News last night? They ran a scathing investigative report on USDA and pink slime in ground beef - 2 USDA scientist-whistle blowers were interviewed for the piece. More evidence Why, in my humble opinion, the Fact Sheet really has to address the issue head on. ABC News will continue the investigative reporting.

Have a great day - did you have a chance to take a look at the (revised) Fact sheet on Ammonium Hydroxide I sent you?

(b) (6) (access the link below to see the ABC News report.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/#.T1iUrISnosI.email>



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime'  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:44:15 AM

---

Hope you can connect to this link. If not search abc news Pink Slime. I saw it on the news this morning, but the story broke last night.

(b) (6)  
Relief Circuit 50-05

-----Original Message-----

**From:** email@addthis.com [<mailto:email@addthis.com>] On Behalf Of (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:39 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime'

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/#.T1h-Tz2EnMY.email>

---

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: 7203454 - King  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:01:32 PM  
**Attachments:** Jan Smith[1].doc  
**Importance:** High

---

Thanks – just fyi: this was sent with an old tagline.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW. • Room 1166 • Washington D.C. 20250  
(b) (6) (W) • (202) 720-7609 (F) • (b) (6) (C)  
e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe. **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King  
**Importance:** High

This one (7196445) was signed on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
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Office: (b) (6)  
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(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

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**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King



(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
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Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW. • Room 1166 • Washington D.C. 20250  
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e-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe. **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King

Ok – thanks immensely. I'll forward you the latest on LFTB.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
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(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King

Don't worry – just assign and I'll handle. You don't have to start as I'm sure you also have a few things on your plate. I would appreciate knowing the control numbers of the good pink slime letters, however. That would be super.

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst

USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff

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e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe. **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:25 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King

Ok no dice on the other options. How about this: I'll get the draft started, and into clearance – would you take in on midstream? Let me know if you're comfortable with that.

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

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USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S

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**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:22 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King

Don't make yourself crazy. We have to have answered every variation of pink slime by now. I can lift.

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst

USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff

1400 Independence Avenue, SW. • Room 1166 • Washington D.C. 20250

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e-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**Be Food Safe.** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:21 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King

I'll see what I can do.

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S

Washington, D.C. 20250

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Cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:16 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King

I have 2 privacy impact assessments due by COB today and haven't touched pink slime yet. I have to leave on time today, but I know we're down people. If there is no one else I'll make a try.

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst

USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff

1400 Independence Avenue, SW. • Room 1166 • Washington D.C. 20250

(b) (6) (W) • (202) 720-7609 (F) • (b) (6) (C)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe. **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:11 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** 7203454 - King  
**Importance:** High

Just received a new OES50S from (b) (6) on LFTB. Could you take this one?

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** [John Woloszyn](#)  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: A question on Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:18:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [Food Safety 2011.pdf](#)

---

Dear Mr. Canavan:

I'm writing to you at the suggestion of (b) (6). We have dealt with Mr. (b) (6) on several occasions while seeking FSIS approval of our line of food safety products based on bacteriophage (or phage) technology. As you may know, Mr. (b) (6) is now retired from the FSIS.

As you can see from my e-mail to Mr. (b) (6) below, I'm curious as to whether the FSIS, or the USDA's school lunch program, has given any thought to see if a demonstration project could replace or offer a substitute for the "pink slime" product currently being used in ground hamburger. Of course, I'm advocating the use of EcoShield™, a recently approved phage-based incidental processing aid.

Perhaps you can direct me to the proper person to contact within the USDA on this topic.

Best regards,

John J. Woloszyn  
President & CEO  
Intralytix, Inc.  
Columbus Center  
701 E. Pratt Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
NEW: P: 433-275-9694  
M: 410-336-3321

(b) (6) [@intralytix.com](mailto:(b) (6)@intralytix.com)

**Safety by Nature™**

Web site: [www.Intralytix.com](http://www.Intralytix.com)

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFoo1OVa11E>

Food Safety Solutions Blog: <http://phagesolutions.blogspot.com/>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/intralytix>

---

**From:** Karen Moser [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:18 AM  
**To:** John Woloszyn  
**Subject:** Re: A question on Pink Slime

Good morning,

Sorry I missed your phone call yesterday. I was out on the property bushhogging and clearing brush that was long overdue to be removed. Now that I am retired I have much more time to pursue all my many hobbies and other personal things that working full time preventing me from accomplishing. Retirement is great!!!!

In answer to a contact at the School Lunch program, unfortunately, I have not worked with them in quite a few years and my contacts have either retired or moved on. You might check with Jeff Canavan in FSIS Labeling. His e-mail address is: [jeff.canavan@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:jeff.canavan@fsis.usda.gov).

His phone number is (301)504-0879.

Good luck!

(b) (6)

On Wed, Mar 21, 2012 at 7:18 PM, John Woloszyn <(b) (6) @intralytix.com> wrote:

Hi, (b) (6)

I hope this e-mail find you enjoying your retirement.

I realize that you are no longer involved in day-to-day affairs at the USDA.

However, I thought I would see if I could pick your brains regarding the recent controversy in using Beef Products, Inc.'s reconstituted trim (sometimes described as "pink slime") in the School Lunch Program. As you may recall, this issue first hit the newspapers in December, 2009 (see the NYTimes article below). Apparently BPI claims that this additive possesses antimicrobial properties against E. coli and Salmonella.

Most recently, the USDA is getting more blowback from consumer groups, etc. One justification for using this product is its antimicrobial claim. I'm wondering if there is someone withing the USDA/School Lunch Program that I can approach to suggest that a demonstration project be run to compare the antimicrobial properties and effectiveness of both pink slime and bacteriophage?

Any direction on this topic you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

Best regards,  
John J. Woloszyn  
President & CEO  
Intralytix, Inc.  
Columbus Center  
701 E. Pratt Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
NEW: P: 433-275-9694  
M: (b) (6)  
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Safety by Nature™

Web site: [www.Intralytix.com](http://www.Intralytix.com)

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFoo1OVa11E>

Food Safety Solutions Blog: <http://phagesolutions.blogspot.com/>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/intralytix>

New York Times:

Safety of Beef Processing Method Is Questioned

By MICHAEL MOSS



Eight years ago, federal officials were struggling to remove potentially deadly E. coli from hamburgers when an entrepreneurial company from South Dakota came up with a novel idea: injecting beef with ammonia.

The company, Beef Products Inc., had been looking to expand into the hamburger business with a product made from beef that included fatty trimmings the industry once relegated to pet food and cooking oil. The trimmings were particularly susceptible to contamination, but a study commissioned by the company showed that the ammonia process would kill E. coli as well as salmonella.

Officials at the United States Department of Agriculture endorsed the company's ammonia treatment, and have said it destroys E. coli "to an undetectable level." They decided it was so effective that in 2007, when the department began routine testing of meat used in hamburger sold to the general public, they exempted Beef Products.

With the U.S.D.A.'s stamp of approval, the company's processed beef has become a mainstay in America's hamburgers. McDonald's, Burger King and other fast-food giants use it as a component in ground beef, as do grocery chains. The federal school lunch program used an estimated 5.5 million pounds of the processed beef last year alone.

But government and industry records obtained by The New York Times show that in testing for the school lunch program, E. coli and salmonella pathogens have been found dozens of times in Beef Products meat, challenging claims by the company and the U.S.D.A. about the effectiveness of the treatment. Since 2005, E. coli has been found 3 times and salmonella 48 times, including back-to-back incidents in August in which two 27,000-pound batches were found to be contaminated. The meat was caught before reaching lunch-rooms trays.

In July, school lunch officials temporarily banned their hamburger makers from using meat from a Beef Products facility in Kansas because of salmonella — the third suspension in three years, records show. Yet the facility remained approved by the U.S.D.A. for other customers.

Presented by The Times with the school lunch test results, top department officials said they were not aware of what their colleagues in the lunch program had been finding for years.

In response, the agriculture department said it was revoking Beef Products' exemption from routine testing and conducting a review of the company's operations and research. The department said it was also reversing its policy for handling Beef Products during pathogen outbreaks. Since it was seen as pathogen-free, the processed beef was excluded from recalls, even when it was an ingredient in hamburgers found to be contaminated.

The Beef Products case reveals a schism between the main Department of Agriculture and its division that oversees the school lunch program, a divide that underscores the government's faltering effort to make hamburger safe. The U.S.D.A. banned the sale of meat found to be contaminated with the O157:H7 strain of E. coli 15 years ago, after a deadly outbreak was traced to Jack in the Box restaurants. Meat tainted with salmonella is also a hazard. But while the school lunch program will not buy meat contaminated with salmonella, the agriculture department does not ban its sale to the general public.

Even so, E. coli outbreaks nationwide have increased in recent years. And this summer, two outbreaks of particularly virulent strains of salmonella in hamburger prompted large recalls of ground beef across several states.

Although no outbreak has been tied to Beef Products, officials said they would thoroughly scrutinize any future industry innovations for fighting contamination “to ensure that they are scientifically sound and protect public health,” and that they were examining the government’s overall meat safety policies.

The founder and owner of Beef Products, Eldon N. Roth, declined requests for interviews or access to the company’s production facilities. Responding to written questions, Beef Products said it had a deep commitment to hamburger safety and was continually refining its operation to provide the safest product possible. “B.P.I.’s track record demonstrates the progress B.P.I. has made compared to the industry norm,” the company said. “Like any responsible member of the meat industry, we are not perfect.”

Beef Products maintains that its ammonia process remains effective. It said it tests samples of each batch it ships to customers and has found E. coli in only 0.06 percent of the samples this year.

The company says its processed beef, a mashlike substance frozen into blocks or chips, is used in a majority of the hamburger sold nationwide. But it has remained little known outside industry and government circles. Federal officials agreed to the company’s request that the ammonia be classified as a “processing agent” and not an ingredient that would be listed on labels.

Within the U.S.D.A., the treated beef has been a source of friction for years. The department accepted the company’s own study as evidence that the treatment was effective. School lunch officials, who had some doubts about its effectiveness, required that Beef Products meat be tested, as they do all beef used by the program.

School lunch officials said that in some years Beef Products testing results were worse than many of the program’s two dozen other suppliers, which use traditional meat processing methods. From 2005 to 2009, Beef Products had a rate of 36 positive results for salmonella per 1,000 tests, compared to a rate of nine positive results per 1,000 tests for the other suppliers, according to statistics from the program. Beef Products said its testing regime was more likely to detect contamination.

Despite some misgivings, school lunch officials say they use Beef Products because its price is substantially lower than ordinary meat trimmings, saving about \$1 million a year.

Another snapshot of processed beef’s performance emerges from confidential records of tests in 2007 by the food giant Cargill. In the preceding year and a half, Cargill, which used more than 50 vendors, suspended three facilities for excessive salmonella; two were Beef Products plants, records show.

Since introducing the treated meat, Beef Products has faced the challenge of balancing safety with taste, records and interviews show.

Pathogens died when enough ammonia was used to raise the alkalinity of the beef to a high

level, company research found. But early on, school lunch officials and other customers complained about the taste and smell of the beef. Samples of the processed beef obtained by The Times revealed lower levels of alkalinity, suggesting less ammonia was used.

Beef Products acknowledged lowering the alkalinity, and the U.S.D.A. said it had determined that “at least some of B.P.I.’s product was no longer receiving the full lethality treatment.”

Beef Products said it had submitted new research to the agriculture department showing that its treatment remained effective with lower alkalinity. Agriculture officials said Beef Products’ latest study is under review.

### A Safety Solution

Headstrong and self-assured, Eldon N. Roth had the good fortune of being in the right place at the right time.

Mr. Roth spent the 1990s looking to give Beef Products a competitive edge by turning fatty slaughterhouse trimmings into usable lean beef.

Mr. Roth and others in the industry had discovered that liquefying the fat and extracting the protein from the trimmings in a centrifuge resulted in a lean product that was desirable to hamburger-makers.

The greater challenge was eliminating E. coli and salmonella, which are more prevalent in fatty trimmings than in higher grades of beef. According to a 2003 study financed by Beef Products, the trimmings “typically includes most of the material from the outer surfaces of the carcass” and contains “larger microbiological populations.” Beef Products said it also used trimmings from inside cuts of meat.

Mr. Roth was well suited to tackle the problem, friends say. Though lacking a science background, he had a knack for machinery and obtained patents for over two dozen pieces of equipment and methods used in processing beef.

“He looked and looked at stuff and always wondered, why can’t it be done this way?” said Dr. David M. Theno, a food safety consultant and friend of Mr. Roth. “He is like a lot of inventors. Not everyone sees Eldon’s vision.”

One of Mr. Roth’s early trials involved running electricity through the trimmings to kill bacteria, Dr. Theno and others said. Mr. Roth eventually settled on ammonia, which had been shown to suppress spoilage. Meat is sent through pipes where it is exposed to ammonia gas, and then flash frozen and compressed — all steps that help kill pathogens, company research found.

The treated beef landed in Washington in 2001, when federal officials were searching for ways to eliminate E. coli. Beef Products already had one study showing its treatment would do that; another company-sponsored study by an Iowa State University professor that was published in a professional journal seconded that finding.

Mr. Roth asserted that his product would kill pathogens in untreated meat when it was used as an ingredient in ground beef — raising the prospect of a risk-free burger. “Given the

technology, we firmly believe that the two pathogens of major concern in raw ground beef — E. coli O157:H7 and salmonella — are on the verge of elimination,” Mr. Roth wrote to the department.

The Food and Drug Administration signed off on the use of ammonia, concluding it was safe when used as a processing agent in foods. This year, a top official with the U.S.D.A.’s Food Safety and Inspection Service said, “It eliminates E. coli to the same degree as if you cooked the product.”

Carl S. Custer, a former U.S.D.A. microbiologist, said he and other scientists were concerned that the department had approved the treated beef for sale without obtaining independent validation of the potential safety risk. Another department microbiologist, Gerald Zirnstein, called the processed beef “pink slime” in a 2002 e-mail message to colleagues and said, “I do not consider the stuff to be ground beef, and I consider allowing it in ground beef to be a form of fraudulent labeling.”

One of the toughest hurdles for Beef Products was the Agricultural Marketing Service, the U.S.D.A. division that buys food for school lunches. Officials cited complaints about the odor, and wrote in a 2002 memorandum that they had “to determine if the addition of ammonia to the product is in the best interest to A.M.S. from a quality standpoint.”

“It is our contention,” the memo added, “that product should be labeled accordingly.”

Represented by Dennis R. Johnson, a top lawyer and lobbyist for the meat industry, Beef Products prevailed on the question of whether ammonia should be listed as an ingredient, arguing that the government had just decided against requiring another company to list a chemical used in treating poultry.

School lunch officials said they ultimately agreed to use the treated meat because it shaved about 3 cents off the cost of making a pound of ground beef. “Several packers have unofficially raised concern regarding the use of the product since the perception of quality is inferior,” the 2002 memo said. “But will use product to obtain lower bid.”

In 2004, lunch officials increased the amount of Beef Products meat allowed in its hamburgers to 15 percent, from 10 percent, to increase savings. In a taste test at the time, some school children favored burgers with higher amounts of processed beef.

Beef Products does not disclose its earnings, but its reported production of seven million pounds a week would generate about \$440 million in annual revenue, according to industry records.

Dr. Theno, the food safety consultant, applauds Mr. Roth for figuring out how to convert high-fat trimmings “with no functional value.”

“There were some issues with that,” Dr. Theno said. “But he, and God bless him, amassed a tidy fortune for it.”

As sales took off, Mr. Roth started offering a buy-back guarantee: If any of the most virulent E. coli was found in ground beef containing Beef Products meat, the company would buy the tainted meat.

This was based on Mr. Roth's initial prediction that his treated beef could kill E. coli in any meat it was mixed with. The company acknowledges that its subsequent study found no evidence to back that up, although it says it is now trying with an enhanced treatment. The guarantee remains on the company Web site: "Contact a B.P.I. sales representative today to take the challenge!"

## Odor and Alkalinity

As suppliers of national restaurant chains and government-financed programs were buying Beef Product meat to use in ground beef, complaints about its pungent odor began to emerge.

In early 2003, officials in Georgia returned nearly 7,000 pounds to Beef Products after cooks who were making meatloaf for state prisoners detected a "very strong odor of ammonia" in 60-pound blocks of the trimmings, state records show.

"It was frozen, but you could still smell ammonia," said Dr. Charles Tant, a Georgia agriculture department official. "I've never seen anything like it."

Unaware that the meat was treated with ammonia — since it was not on the label — Georgia officials assumed it was accidentally contaminated and alerted the agriculture department. In their complaint, the officials noted that the level of ammonia in the beef was similar to levels found in contamination incidents involving chicken and milk that had sickened schoolchildren.

Beef Products said the ammonia did not pose a danger and would be diluted when its beef was mixed with other meat. The U.S.D.A. accepted Beef Product's conclusion, but other customers had also complained about the smell.

Untreated beef naturally contains ammonia and is typically about 6 on the pH scale, near that of rain water and milk. The Beef Products' study that won U.S.D.A. approval used an ammonia treatment that raised the pH of the meat to as high as 10, an alkalinity well beyond the range of most foods. The company's 2003 study cited the "potential issues surrounding the palatability of a pH-9.5 product."

Soon after getting initial approval from the agriculture department, the company devised a plan to make a less alkaline version of the beef, internal company documents show. Beef Products acknowledged in an e-mail exchange that it was making a lower pH version, but did not specify the level or when it began selling it.

In 2008, after the school lunch program temporarily suspended a Beef Products plant for salmonella contamination, the company wrote in a letter that its effort to combat ammonia "aroma" might have reduced the alkalinity below the initial target levels. It said it was taking steps to ensure that the alkalinity remained elevated.

Samples of the treated beef obtained by The Times this month showed a pH as low as 7.75, according to an analysis by two laboratories. Dr. Michael P. Doyle, a food industry consultant and director of the Center for Food Safety at the University of Georgia, said one point on the exponential pH scale was a considerable difference, and "could have a significant effect on the antimicrobial effectiveness of the ammonia."

This month, Beef Products provided The Times with new research that the company said showed that E. coli and salmonella were undetectable at a pH level of 8.5. The agriculture department said it did not learn that Beef Products was using lower levels until October, after inquiries by The Times, and that it was studying the company's research.

McDonald's, whose hamburgers have contained Beef Products meat since 2004, declined to say if it monitored it for pH. But Danya Proud, a chain spokeswoman, said, "We expect the pH level to meet the specifications that are approved by the U.S.D.A."

### Contamination and Notification

At 6:36 a.m. on Aug. 10, the Beef Products plant in South Sioux City, Neb., started up its production line for the school lunch program. In 60 minutes, the plant produced a batch of 26,880 pounds of processed beef that tested positive for E. coli.

Six days later at the same plant, another 26,880-pound lot was found to have salmonella, government records and interviews show.

Within hours of confirming the contamination, the school lunch division of the Agriculture Department in Washington began investigating.

Just down the hall at department headquarters, the division that oversees meat for the general public did not conduct its own inquiry for another month and half, after receiving questions from The Times.

The problems in South Sioux City came shortly after school lunch officials had suspended a Beef Products plant in Holcomb, Kan., for excessive salmonella. The main U.S.D.A. was not notified of the suspension by school lunch officials, and the plant continued to supply other customers.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has since directed school lunch officials to share information about their suspensions with the department's meat safety division.

In addressing the latest contamination cases in Nebraska, Beef Products said it suspected a glitch in its treatment operations, referring to ammonia gas by its chemical name, NH<sub>3</sub>, according to an e-mail message to school lunch officials.

"The system was stopped for two minutes in order to install a new valve," the company said. "When the system was restarted, there was product flow for approximately one minute without NH<sub>3</sub> flow."

After the school lunch officials replied that the glitch might explain only one of the two episodes, Beef Products shifted focus to its suppliers, saying it would more closely scrutinize them for contamination.

Under the U.S.D.A.'s new policy for Beef Products, the company itself is also likely to get more scrutiny.

Cargill, one of the nation's largest hamburger makers, is a big buyer of Beef Products'

ammoniated trimmings for its patties. Company records show that Beef Products, like other suppliers, has periodically exceeded Cargill's limits on acceptable bacteria levels. That led Cargill to stop buying meat from two Beef Products plants for several months in 2006 after company tests showed excessive levels of salmonella.

But the following year, when Cargill faced an E. coli outbreak, it ruled out Beef Products as a possible culprit, citing the U.S.D.A.'s view that the ammonia treatment provided a "lethality step" for the pathogen. In addition, Cargill officials said recently, they suspect that another supplier, not Beef Products, was the problem. As a result, Beef Products did not face as wide a recall as other Cargill suppliers.

Recently, another E. coli outbreak was traced to a hamburger maker in upstate New York that also used multiple suppliers, including Beef Products. This time, the agriculture department said Beef Products was being recalled with other suppliers, although a source of the contamination had not been identified.

"This will continue to be our approach going forward," the department said.

Griff Palmer contributed reporting.

**From:** Paul  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: ABC & Pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:39:37 PM

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----- Original Message -----

From: "Carl Custer" (b) (6) @gmail.com>  
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) @verizon.net>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @erols.com>; (b) (6) Home (b) (6) @cox.net>; (b) (6) Home (b) (6) @comcast.net>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @gmail.com>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @aol.com>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @tampabay.rr.com>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @msn.com>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @gmail.com>; (b) (6) Home (b) (6) @charter.net>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @gmail.com>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @gmail.com>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @verizon.net>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @starpower.net>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @comcast.net>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @verizon.net>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @verizon.net>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @gmail.com>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @yahoo.com>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>; (b) (6) (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:40 PM

Subject: ABC & Pink slime

Whoo doggie, me 'n GZ been on Tee Vee :^)  
30 minutes of interview reduced to 10 seconds of "Fame"  
<<http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/pink-slime-15873068>>

FWIW, in 1990, we called it Soy lent Pink. Ah but kids today, who remembers "Soy lent Green"

On Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 7:02 PM, Carl Custer <carl.custer@gmail.com> wrote:

- > Well, if you can catch today's ABC World news, I'm evidently on it
- > blathering about food safety.
- > They were supposed to tell me when . . . but didn't



**From:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:42:17 PM

---

Did you already respond?

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:15 AM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Ros, (b) (6) please provide a statement that summarizes the nutrient and protein quality expectations for this product.

---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 09:48 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

I'm not clear exactly what the question is.

But Chuck, Bill, Dan please weigh in:

Trim clearly meets the definition of meat or meat food product in the regs. FSIS inspects the product to ensure it is not adulterated.

We've already provided information on why FSIS allows the ammonium hydroxide treatment.

Anything else we can add?

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:28 AM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Rachel has a voicemail messages from both Dirk and me so I thought I would try to bring everyone together even though folks are spread out between hearings and other events right now.

Last night, ABC news ran a piece on LFTB – the link is below in case you missed it:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

**As a follow up, OC got a note from ABC today asking, in part: what's the justification for this being classified as food? And is that a classification that's under review?**

Would CPAO be correct to just refer to the CFR for the definition of meat, and look at LFTB as an enhanced form of Mechanically Recovered meat? The previous questions we have dealt with on LFTB seemed to mostly focus on the Ammonium hydroxide treatment, not on the process of the meat itself.

I just wanted to make sure I didn't go down the wrong path. Thanks for any guidance or a SME to talk with. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Accomplishment reports  
**Date:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 2:15:00 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

Hi (b) (6)

Per your request, since 9-20, I had 4 more letter signed. This brings my total to 123 Congressional and Non-Congressional letters, and 25 pink slime letters. The pink slime letters were assigned to me and I created a folder in ECM individually for each one.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1170-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (202) 720-7609*

*Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)*

*"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 28, 2011 11:21 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Accomplishment reports

Hi (b) (6)

Since 9-20, I had 4 more letters signed, which brings my total from 147 to 151.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1170-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

*"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 28, 2011 9:29 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Accomplishment reports

For your Accomplishment Report, I need the number of letters completed in FY 2011.

Thanks, (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: After seeing a report by ABC News regarding "pink slime beef" I reviewed comment...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:59:48 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

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**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:54 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: After seeing a report by ABC News regarding "pink slime beef" I reviewed comment...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

For your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120315-000001

**Summary:** After seeing a report by ABC News regarding "pink slime beef" I reviewed comment...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/15/2012 01:17 AM

**Last Updated:** 03/15/2012 01:17 AM

**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/15/2012 01:17 AM

After seeing a report by ABC News regarding "pink slime beef" I reviewed comments on Yahoo news regarding this matter. The vast majority of respondents, almost everyone seemed to be upset by the use of this process along with the fact it would be given to their children in school. Are you aware of the American citizen's opinions concerning this matter? Should this process be clearly marked on packages containing this product?

**From:** [Pospishek, Paul - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Agency definition of wholesome [Incident: 120322-000016]  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:50:54 AM

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Read the highlighted Q&A below, kind of makes you wonder who makes this stuff up.

What is wholesome?

---

**From:** Pospishek, Paul - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:49 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Agency definition of wholesome [Incident: 120322-000016]

Dr, (b) (6)

Check out this Q&A exchange with AskFSIS.

I wanted to know the agencies official definition of the term “wholesome” after hearing their official response to the “pink slime” controversy.

The agency in their official response stated that lean finely textured beef or “pink slime”, as it has been called, is “safe and wholesome”.

I agree it is probably safe but wholesome on the other hand is open for debate. Wholesome can be a rather subjective or ambiguous term that is open to interpretation.

Lean finely textured beef and mechanically separated species (poultry) in my opinion are not at all wholesome. I won't knowingly eat them.

Lastly I find it alarming that the agency does not have an official definition for the term wholesome when they use it so frequently and they incorporate it as the centerpiece of the poultry inspection legend.

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**From:** FSIS Policy Development Division [mailto:pdd@custhelp.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:30 AM  
**To:** Pospishek, Paul - FSIS  
**Subject:** Agency definition of wholesome [Incident: 120322-000016]

Recently you requested personal assistance from our on-line support center. Below is a summary of your request and our response.

Thank you for allowing us to be of service to you.

To update this question by email, please reply to this message. Because your reply will be automatically processed, you MUST enter your reply in the space below. Text entered into any other part of this message will be discarded.

[====> Please enter your reply below this line <====]

[====> Please enter your reply above this line <====]

[To access your question from our support site, click here.](#)

---

**Subject**

Agency definition of wholesome

**Discussion Thread****Response Via Email (PDD Staff Officer)**

03/22/2012 09:30 AM

FSIS does not define the term 'wholesome. This link describes FSIS policy for Terms with No Official Definition - [http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/1470](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1470). The Merriam-Webster Dictionary provides several meaning for the term 'wholesome.' the meaning that applies within the context of FSIS inspection is 'promoting health of body.' That meaning does not work well as a criterion for making a disposition on product.

The standard for making a disposition on product listed in the statutes and regulations is the term 'adulterated.' You will find this term defined in 9 CFR 301.2, 9 CFR 381.1(b), and 9 CFR 590.5. If a product is adulterated it is not wholesome. However, it is possible for a product to be not adulterated and be not wholesome.

**Auto-Response**

03/22/2012 09:17 AM

Your message has been received at the FSIS Policy Development Division (PDD) and will be assigned to a staff specialist for response.

Our goal is to provide an accurate response as quickly as possible—in most instances, this will be within two working days. Some questions, however, require extensive research and will take longer to answer. If you would like to know the status of your question, you can telephone PDD for additional discussion at 1-800-233-3935 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. Please refer to the incident reference number below when calling for clarification.

The reference number for your question is 120322-000016.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119902/username/paul.pospishek@fsis.usda.gov](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119902/username/paul.pospishek@fsis.usda.gov)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Policy Development Division.

**Customer By Web Form (Paul Pospishek)**

03/22/2012 09:17 AM

How does the agency define the term wholesome?



Dale S. Barth, President AFGE Local 0774, Waterloo/Marshalltown <<410 Agenda.docx>>

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: all non meat grinding technologys gone  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 6:44:48 AM

---

I don't know why he won't send data. (b) (4) uses his equipment and wants to change policy. We were in a meeting with dan amd company last year and said petition with data needed.

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD

Deputy Director

Labeling and Program Delivery Division

USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 04:38 AM  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) @aol.com](#); [\(b\) \(6\) @aol.com](#)>  
**Subject:** Re: all non meat grinding technologys gone

Rae,

Yes, consumer reaction is hard to anticipate. Although they are entirely different products, one difference between finely textured beef and mechanically separated chicken or pork is that it is labeled. Consumer complaints about finely textured beef appear to center around labeling.

If you want to change the agency's policy for the production of ground product, e.g., use of frames as starting material, we have said you should submit a petition to FSIS with data comparing your product current ground product.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD

Deputy Director

Labeling and Program Delivery Division

USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

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**From:** [\(b\) \(6\) @aol.com](#) [mailto:[\(b\) \(6\) @aol.com](#)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 09:51 PM  
**Subject:** all non meat grinding technologys gone

I was in contact with USDA in Washington DC this morning on other another subject when the subject owas brought up about he **paste technology exploding** caused by the Pink Slime upheaval .

When this Negative,ignorance, of of the news media misleads the Public, concern will move to **all commercial available paste emulsions from Mechanically Deboned meat technology** including Cozzine technology Beehive, Lima, etc,BPI and then only true meat grinders with constant pressure and large defect removal systems will be able to produce ground meat at different textures so in my mind the demand for the Nu'Edge Ground meat will come under great demand????????????????????  
????????????????????

Archie Rae McFarland Senior Wellness, Science and Professional Food Technologist 1-559-217-5071 [www.avispatech.com](http://www.avispatech.com)

**From:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: All the info I have on how to answer pink slime questions  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:07:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [Signed copy of Carolyn Morgan Pink Slime 6816405.docx](#)

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*Walinda P. "Linda" West*

Supervisor, Constituent Affairs

Congressional and Public Affairs Office

USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1184

Washington, DC 20250

Direct line: (202) 720-0284

Main Ofc: (202) 720-9113

Blackberry: (202) 360-1428

Fax: (202) 720-5704

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:31 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: All the info I have on how to answer pink slime questions

Hi Linda,

Thanks so much for this information. As a courtesy, I wanted to share with you that Dan approved boiler plate language (see attached) that addresses Pink Slime inquiries. In April 2011, when the story aired on the Jamie Olivers Food Network Show, about using ammonia in beef, we received over 30 letters. I was assigned all the pink slime letters, and processed them as they came in. For your information, I created a pink slime folder on the Q:Drive entitled "Pink Slime-Jamie Olivers Food Network."

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Amarillo  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:43:58 AM

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Sorry, left you off...

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:43 AM  
**To:** McKean, Jennifer - FSIS; Davis, Gary - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Amarillo

Might be a moot point of breaking up that patrol in Amarillo now...saw the press release where BPI is suspending operations for 60 days and then going to re-evaluate if they will produce anymore product or not...the pink slime thing has everything on tilt...

(b) (6)

Supervisory Resource Management Analyst

USDA-FSIS Dallas District Office

1100 Commerce Street Room 516

Dallas Texas 75242

Voice: (b) (6)

Fax: 214-767-8230

Blackberry: (b) (6)

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: Ammoniated Beef  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:33:05 PM

---

Can you guyz handle?

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 01:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammoniated Beef

(b) (6)

Can we see if FSIS would be willing to respond to these issues the States need help answering?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:23 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) K. DPI  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammoniated Beef

(b) (6)

I will share your suggestions regarding the talking points with AMS.  
I will also see where we have been instructed to direct media inquiries.  
Don't believe FSIS is handling as there is no food safety issue with this product.  
FDA has this product defined as "GRAS" generally recognized as safe.

Stay tuned. (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) DPI [mailto:(b) (6)@dpi.wi.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) DPI; (b) (6) . DPI; (b) (6) DPI  
**Subject:** RE: Ammoniated Beef

(b) (6)

Yes, we have received the BPI information. Thank you.

However, the March 7, 2012 article has a few points that I feel should be addressed in the talking points:

1. "scientists in D.C. were pressured to approve this stuff with minimal safety approval" under President George H.W. Bush's administration. The USDA asserts that its ground beef purchases "meet the highest standard for food safety."
2. "We looked at the product and we objected to it because it used connective tissues instead of muscle. It was simply not nutritionally equivalent [to ground beef]. My main objection was that it was not meat."

3. Controversy surrounding "pink slime" stems from various safety concerns, particularly dangers associated with ammonium hydroxide, which can both be harmful to eat and has potential to turn into ammonium nitrate -- a common component in homemade bombs, according to MSNBC. It's also used in household cleaners and fertilizers.

For media inquiries, is there a list of FSIS contacts that we can provide as we receive those requests?

Thanks.

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FNS [mailto:(b) (6)@fns.usda.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:01 AM  
To: (b) (6) DPI; (b) (6) - FNS  
Cc: (b) (6) DPI; Sime, (b) (6) DPI; (b) (6) . DPI  
Subject: RE: Ammoniated Beef

(b) (6)

We sent talking points to the region to transmit this morning.

I also sent the same directly to SDA's minutes ago just to make sure everyone got them...did you just receive them?

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) DPI [mailto:(b) (6)@dpi.wi.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:56 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
Cc: (b) (6) DPI; (b) (6) . DPI; (b) (6) . DPI  
Subject: Ammoniated Beef

Hi (b) (6) and (b) (6)

I have received an email from one of our schools here in Wisconsin regarding an article on the ammoniated beef. Looks like this issue is resurfacing again.

Here is the link to the article: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/05/pink-slime-for-school-lun\\_n\\_1322325.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/05/pink-slime-for-school-lun_n_1322325.html)

Have either of you seen this article yet? Does USDA plan to release some talking points for states to use for inquiries that we will receive from our schools?

Thanks.

(b) (6)

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: FW: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet--examples/follow-up  
Date: Thursday, February 09, 2012 1:10:15 PM

---

(b) (6) please see below, (meant to send to you as well)

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From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 1:09 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet--examples/follow-up

(b) (6)

This type of language may help shed light about this topic to consumers:

*..One form of ammonia called ammonium hydroxide is sometimes used in processing foods like baked goods, cheeses, chocolates and some beef products — this is not the same type of ammonia in household cleaners.”*

*.... ammonium hydroxide gas, which contains a minute fraction of ammonia to kill bacteria in lean beef trimmings, the company said.*

*...Ammonia is used extensively in the food industry, and it is found naturally in meat. Basically a mixture of water and ammonia, ammonium hydroxide is utilized in baked goods, cheeses, candy and other products, the International Food Information Council said.*

*..The Food and Drug Administration approved the chemical for various purposes. Regarding meat, ammonium hydroxide lowers the acidity, making it inhospitable for bacteria to grow and survive*

These, of course, came from an article found in meatpoultry.com and we would (definitely) need to check w/ our technical group for accuracy – (just examples)

<http://www.meatpoultry.com/News/News%20Home/Business/2011/12/Ammonium%20hydroxide%20technology%20shunned%20by%20key%20QSR%20chains.aspx>

When verified, and cleared, this information is accurate, transparent, and hopefully sheds light on a chemical normally used with foods,

though it has a terrible ‘ring’ to it.

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:52 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet

No, these are just references that can be used, if needed.

Simple language would need to be extracted from these.

We would still need PDD or Labeling to work around the text to use – simple enough for consumers.

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000



Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:50 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet

I don't feel the fact sheet should be very technical. They can always look up the directive.

Think simple.....

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854  
or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:35 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet

**Here are my comments:**

--(certainly we would have to look at these more closely if they are of interest for the fact sheet)--

- **According to CFR data Title 21, it's in the GRAS list (generally recognized as safe)**
- **According to FSIS Directive 7120.1, Rev. 9, there are no labeling requirements**
- **We can get more cleared language from PDD or Labeling Division**
- **According to Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Division of Toxicology (ATSDR):**

Some restrictions have been placed on levels of ammonium salts allowable in processed foods. FDA states that the levels of ammonia and ammonium compounds normally found in food do not pose a health risk.

**Examples:**

Maximum allowable levels in processed foods are as follows: 0.04–3.2% ammonium bicarbonate in baked goods, grain, snack foods, and reconstituted vegetables; 2.0% ammonium carbonate in baked goods, gelatins, and puddings; 0.001% ammonium chloride in baked goods and 0.8% in condiments and relishes; 0.6–0.8% ammonium hydroxide in baked goods, cheeses, gelatins, and puddings; 0.01% monobasic ammonium phosphate in baked goods; and 1.1% dibasic ammonium phosphate in baked goods, 0.003% in nonalcoholic beverages, and 0.012% in condiments and relishes

**Here are the references:**

- **FSIS Directive 7120.1, Rev. 9 (10/21/11)**

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPE/rdad/FSISDirectives/7120.1.pdf>

- **Title 21: Food and Drugs**

**§ 582.1139 Ammonium hydroxide.**

(a) *Product.* Ammonium hydroxide.

(b) *Conditions of use.* This substance is generally recognized as safe when used in accordance with good manufacturing or feeding practice.

[PART 582—SUBSTANCES GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE](#)  
[Subpart B—General Purpose Food Additives](#)

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=08bf44c38991798be946024b70583a36&rgn=div8&view=text&node=21:6.0.1.1.24.2.1.19&idno=21>

- **ASTDR --**

**PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT -- AMMONIA**

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp126-c1.pdf>

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(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:12 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet

My comments:

- The factsheet needs to mention "pink slime", that's what the consumer is hearing on the Internet and that's why they are calling.
- Why is ammonium hydroxide not listed on the label?
- How do I know if I purchased a product that has been processed with ammonia?

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**  
Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854  
or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** ammonium hydroxide fact sheet

Do you have any comments?

We should probably ask in the fact sheet, some of the questions we've been getting on the Hotline or to "Karen." Why isn't ammonium hydroxide labeled and what exactly is pink slime?

(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
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Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
(b) (6)  
(fax) 301-504-2092

**From:** [Hulsey, Laura - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Williams, Charles - FSIS](#); [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#); [Mbandi, Evelynne - FSIS](#); [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS; [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); [Roseman, Gary - FSIS](#); [Shaw, William - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS; [Tohamy, Soumaya - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:40:55 AM  
**Attachments:** [Standard - Pink slime.pdf](#)

---

You may already have this information... (b) (6) answered a question on pink slime with (b) (6) and we were provided the ECIMS response as well.

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:57 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OPPD/PDD  
**Cc:** Eckel, Ron - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Just FYI....here is the standard response being sent out by ECIMS for the pink slime.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 7:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Good morning,

Sorry to get back to you so late—Friday was my flex day.

Attached is the standard response that we are sending out. Even though it specifically addresses the School Lunch Program, we are sending it out for all inquiries. But the situation is constantly changing.

Thanks.

(b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 8:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Just FYI..we are still working on response. I've got the question on "researching answer." Any input yet from your staff?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Thanks (b) (6) I'll stall till I hear from you/FDA. PETE

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:32 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

I will check with FDA directly. I want to see if there is a commercial quality versus a food grade quality. I probably won't hear back from them until tomorrow.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:25 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Haven't heard anything back from (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Did (b) (6) answer your question?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Sorry, I forgot Dr. (b) (6) retired.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Hi folks,

I've got this sensitive question in askFSIS. I just want to make sure I'm on the right track with my answers. My answers need to be "short" per ECIMS. Can you comment?

(b) (6)

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

The ammonium hydroxide can be used in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practice as long as the FDA guidance for its use is followed, as described in

[Title 21: Food and Drugs](#), PART 184—DIRECT FOOD SUBSTANCES AFFIRMED AS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE  
§ 184.1139 Ammonium hydroxide.

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

The ammonium hydroxide used in the industrial and household cleaners is chemically identical, NH<sub>4</sub>OH, to that used in the BPI beef product.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

The more I think about this, the more I think it should run through NT. Also (b) (6) knows a lot about ammonium hydroxide, you might check with her for input.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:39 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

If I were to answer the two questions here is what I would say:

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

The ammonium hydroxide is used in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practice as long as the FDA guidance for use is followed as described in **Title 21: Food and Drugs**  
**PART 184—DIRECT FOOD SUBSTANCES AFFIRMED AS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE**  
**§ 184.1139 Ammonium hydroxide.**

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

The ammonium hydroxide used in the industrial and household cleaners is chemically identical, NH<sub>4</sub>OH, to that used in the BPI beef product.

(b) (6)

(optional additional info)

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=b2012c837967492648bad57299f83b54&rgn=div5&view=text&node=21:3.0.1.1.14&idno=21#21:3.0.1.1.14.2.1.31>

**Title 21: Food and Drugs**

**PART 184—DIRECT FOOD SUBSTANCES AFFIRMED AS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE**

**§ 184.1139 Ammonium hydroxide.**

(a) Ammonium hydroxide (NH<sub>4</sub>OH, CAS Reg. No. 1336–21–6) is produced by passing ammonia gas into water.

(b) The ingredient meets the specifications of the Food Chemicals Codex, 3d Ed. (1981), p. 20, which is incorporated by reference. Copies are available from the National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20418, or available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202–741–6030, or go to: [http://www.archives.gov/federal\\_register/code\\_of\\_federal\\_regulations/ibr\\_locations.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html).

(c) In accordance with §184.1(b)(1), the ingredient is used in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practice. The affirmation of this ingredient as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) as a direct human food ingredient is based upon the following current good manufacturing practice conditions of use:

(1) The ingredient is used as a leavening agent as defined in §170.3(o)(17) of this chapter; a pH control agent as defined in §170.3(o)(23) of this chapter; a surface-finishing agent as defined in §170.3(o)(30) of this chapter; and as a boiler water additive complying with §173.310 of this chapter.

(2) The ingredient is used in food at levels not to exceed current good manufacturing practice. The ingredient may also be used as a boiler water additive at levels not to exceed current good manufacturing practice.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:06 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Good morning,

We will be glad to answer it. We do need help with the last two questions. Can you give me short answers to those? Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** PDD Staff Officer [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

(b) (6)

Per my supervisor, Dr. Hulsey, instructions, we thought it might be prudent to forward this askFSIS incident to your office. We can assist with answering some of it. Contact me if needed.

I will keep the incident status as 'researching answer' until we hear back from your office on how to proceed.

Pete Duryea  
PDD Staff Officer  
1 800 233 3935 x (b) (6)

#### Reference #120321-000097

**Summary:** Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Rule State:** 4 - In Progress  
**Product Level 1:** General Inspection Policy  
**Category Level 1:** Processing  
**Category Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/21/2012 02:32 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/21/2012 03:55 PM  
**Status:** Researching Answer  
**Assigned:** Pete Duryea  
**Policy Arena?:** Domestic (U.S.) Only  
**Phone Number:** 9892558750  
**Establishment Number:**  
**Establishment Size:** Not Applicable  
**Call Duration:**  
**Phone Incident:**  
**Direct Email Incident:**  
**Analytics Flag:**  
**Analysis Product:**  
**Analysis Category:**  
**Policy Follow-up:** No

#### Key Words

#### Analysis Notes

#### Discussion Thread

##### Auto-Response

03/21/2012  
02:32 PM

Your message has been received at the FSIS Policy Development Division (PDD) and will be assigned to a staff specialist for response.

Our goal is to provide an accurate response as quickly as possible—in most instances, this will be within two working days. Some questions, however, require extensive research and will take longer to answer. If you would like to know the status of your question, you can telephone PDD for additional discussion at 1-800-233-3935 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. Please refer to the incident reference number below when calling for clarification.

The reference number for your question is 120321-000097.

You may update your incident at [http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119837/username/JazzKat57](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119837/username/JazzKat57)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Policy Development Division.

**Customer By Web Form (Kat Tomaszewski)**

03/21/2012  
02:32 PM

Hello,

Recently in the media there has been an outbreak of information regarding the use ammonium hydroxide on beef trimmings to create "pink slime."

According to Beef Products, Inc. they use 10mg of man-made ammonium hydroxide to kill the E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria in their beef trimmings ("trimmings" are the pieces of lean meat and fat that are the result of taking larger pieces of meat and cutting them to meet customer specifications) along with the 30mg of naturally occurring ammonia in the beef itself.

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

AND

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

Thanks in advance!

Kat

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Hulsey, Laura - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 12:03:03 PM

---

So, I won't be able to answer the "pink slime" incident that is currently in my askFSIS inbox under "researching answer." Should I wait, or reply to the customer and tell her to be patient, we are working on a response?

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 10:13 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

FDA's computer system for checking the question is having problems and can only be accessed from their offices. My contact at FDA is working from home today but he will be back in the office on Monday and will let me know then.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Thanks (b) (6) I'll stall till I hear from you/FDA. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:32 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

I will check with FDA directly. I want to see if there is a commercial quality versus a food grade quality. I probably won't hear back from them until tomorrow.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:25 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Haven't heard anything back from (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Did (b) (6) answer your question?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Sorry, I forgot Dr. (b) (6) retired.



**From:** [Hulsey, Laura - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Shaw, William - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS; [Mbandi, Evelynne - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:59:26 AM

---

Just as follow-up, here is the information (b) (6) provided back to the customer inquiry, after joint effort by (b) (6), (b) (6), and (b) (6)

---

**From:** FSIS Policy Development Division [mailto:pdd@custhelp.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:54 AM  
**To:** allthatjazzz@live.com  
**Subject:** Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Recently you requested personal assistance from our on-line support center. Below is a summary of your request and our response.

Thank you for allowing us to be of service to you.

To update this question by email, please reply to this message. Because your reply will be automatically processed, you MUST enter your reply in the space below. Text entered into any other part of this message will be discarded.

[====> Please enter your reply below this line <====]

[====> Please enter your reply above this line <====]

[To access your question from our support site, click here.](#)

#### **Subject**

Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

#### **Discussion Thread**

**Response Via Email (PDD Staff Officer)**

03/26/2012 11:53 AM

Kat,

Thank you for your askFSIS question regarding the safety of beef products treated with ammonia hydroxide. FSIS continues to affirm the safety of beef products treated with ammonium hydroxide.

Specifically, your questions are:

Q1: How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

A1: The ammonium hydroxide can be used in food with no limitation, other than current good manufacturing practice, in full compliance with 21 CFR 184.1139 (<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=30dd3e223b7deaafb30b76b50904e07e&rgn=div8&view=text&node=21:3.0.1.1.14.2.1.31&idno=21>). The level of ammonium hydroxide in food is self-limiting. Foods containing high levels of ammonium hydroxide would be made unpalatable by the change in the organoleptic qualities of the food.

Q2: What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

A2: The ammonium hydroxide used in the production of food would need to meet the specifications for food grade as outlined in the Food Chemicals Codex (<http://www.usp.org/food-ingredients/food-chemicals-codex>). Industrial and household cleaners do not need to meet the food grade standard.

I hope this information helps. Thank you again for your e-mail and your concern for food safety. More information about food safety can be found on FSIS' Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov). Please feel to call me or to update your incident if you have further questions or wish to discuss my response.

(b) (6)

PDD Staff Officer  
1 800 233 3935

**Auto-Response**

03/21/2012 02:32 PM

Your message has been received at the FSIS Policy Development Division (PDD) and will be assigned to a staff specialist for response.

Our goal is to provide an accurate response as quickly as possible—in most instances, this will be within two working days. Some questions, however, require extensive research and will take longer to answer. If you would like to know the status of your question, you can telephone PDD for additional discussion at 1-800-233-3935 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. Please refer to the incident reference number below when calling for clarification.

The reference number for your question is 120321-000097.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119837/username/JazzKat57](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119837/username/JazzKat57)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Policy Development Division.

**Customer By Web Form (Kat Tomaszewski)**

03/21/2012 02:32 PM

Hello,

Recently in the media there has been an outbreak of information regarding the use ammonium hydroxide on beef trimmings to create "pink slime."

According to Beef Products, Inc. they use 10mg of man-made ammonium hydroxide to kill the E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria in their beef trimmings ("trimmings" are the pieces of lean meat and fat that are the result of taking larger pieces of meat and cutting them to meet customer specifications) along with the 30mg of naturally occurring ammonia in the beef itself.

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

AND

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

Thanks in advance!

Kat

**From:** [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Thaler, Alice - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: AMS Project Draft Response  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 7:57:16 AM

---

*Good Morning Alice*

*I just wanted you to be informed that wrt NACMCF there are multiple issue that Gerri and I are juggling with. Some are absolutely technical such as the one below, others are logistical (the notices, arranging for a number of subgroup meetings, keeping the timelines, public meeting -phoneline issue etc etc) and even political (the pink slime issue – public sensitivity, USDA position and protecting the plenary session from being side tracked etc.)*

*Gerri and I will brief you further on these items.*

*Cheers!*

*Uday*

**From:** [Sidrak, Hany - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Sidrak, Hany - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: AMS Testing  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:45:16 PM

---

A copy of the USA Today Article regarding Pink Slime can be seen at  
<http://yourlife.usatoday.com/fitness-food/safety/story/2012-03-22/Supermarkets-join-move-away-from-pink-slime-beef-filler/53700356/1>

---

**From:** Alvares, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:38 PM  
**To:** Alvares, Christopher - FSIS; Nintemann, Terri - FSIS; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Sidrak, Hany - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: AMS Testing

Here is the FSA history on BPI establishments. Several FSAs have been triggered by E coli positives in ground beef where BPI was an implicated supplier (if their product really is in 70% of all ground beef, this might be expected).

Circuit	estnbr	fsastartdate	fsaenddate	estname	FSA Reason
3003	'13465 M'	'2008-08-25'	'2008-09-18'	Beef Products Inc.'	Directed by District Office
3003	'13465 M'	'2010-01-05'	'2010-02-12'	Beef Products Inc.'	Directed by District Office
3003	'13465 M'	'2011-11-28'	'2011-12-16'	Beef Products Inc.'	Supplier of Raw Ground Beef Products / E. coli positive
2529	'18165 M'	'2008-08-18'	'2008-09-11'	Beef Products Inc.'	STEPS database triggered
2529	'18165 M'	'2010-01-04'	'2010-02-10'	Beef Products Inc.'	Direction from Des Moines District Office
2523	'19872 M'	'2007-07-09'	'2007-07-17'	Beef Products Inc.'	No File Attached
2523	'19872 M'	'2008-07-29'	'2008-08-15'	Beef Products Inc.'	STEPS database triggered
2523	'19872 M'	'2009-09-28'	'2009-10-15'	Beef Products Inc.'	STEPS database triggered
2523	'19872 M'	'2010-01-04'	'2010-02-09'	Beef Products Inc.'	District Office Discretion
2523	'19872 M'	'2011-12-05'	'2011-12-29'	Beef Products Inc.'	Supplier of Raw Ground Beef Products / E. coli positive
4013	'20278 M'	'2009-06-01'	'2009-06-16'	Beef Products Inc.'	Named as a 95% plant
4013	'20278 M'	'2010-01-05'	'2010-02-12'	Beef Products Inc.'	Satisfy 4 year

cycle

Christopher Alvares  
Director, DAIG, ODIPP, USDA-FSIS  
(202) 690-6418

---

**From:** Alvares, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:57 AM  
**To:** Nintemann, Terri - FSIS; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Sidrak, Hany - FSIS  
**Subject:** AMS Testing

Below is a summary of testing data from both AMS and FSIS between late 2009 and Feb 2012 for both O157:H7 and Salmonella (The FSIS testing has been updated from earlier emails to include FY12 data to date). No positives have been found. The FSIS testing is from the MT54 (Other Raw Beef Components) sampling program. In addition, I've confirmed that the latest livestock supplier list (sent on 3/8) from AMS includes 4 BPI establishments, but the testing data indicates that they may be purchasing from only M19872 at this time (AMS testing data on M18165 stops in Jan 2010) .

We're checking on whether any FSAs have been scheduled in the past 2 years and I'll send an update as soon as I have that.

	Source	Plants Tested	Period	Tests	Positive - O157:H7	Positive - Salmonella	
	AMS	M18165, M19872	10/2009 - 2/2012	7166	0	0	
	FSIS	M13465, M18165, M19872, M20278, M245L	12/2009 - 2/2012	64	0		
				N/A			

Christopher Alvares

Director, Data Analysis and Integration Group

Office of Data Integration and Food Protection  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, D.C.  
(202) 690-6418

Christopher.Alvares@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 6:47:03 AM  
**Attachments:** [AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12\(5\).docx](#)

---

I think the memo and your changes are fine. I made a few additional changes. You can send back to (b) (6). The only question that I have is the addition of prune puree would raise a labeling question, although it might not be relevant to school lunch program.

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 6:33 AM  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

I made edits to the document. Do you want to review before I send back to (b) (6)?

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA

Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250

Main Office -- (202) 205-0495

Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089

BlackBerry -- (202) 368-5457 -- emergency only

Fax -- (202) 720-2025

Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

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**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 5:02 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

Attached is the current that will go back into circulation tomorrow morning. Dan: I used some of your verbage below while I talked with (b) (6) in OGC. Thank you!!

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 4:14 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

Thanks (b) (6)

FYI, I'm not remembering how AMS defined LFTB in your purchase specification. However, it is important to note that the process to manufacture LFTB does not have to include the anhydrous ammonium treatment. LFTB is beef derived from low temperature rendering and centrifuging off excess fat -- with or without anhydrous ammonium treatment. There could be manufacturers of low temperature rendered beef other than BPI. Thus, if you are trying to be specific about the product that you want to limit in purchases, you might want to be more specific -- i.e., any low

temperature rendered product or other product that appears to be “finely textured” (e.g., meat from advanced meat recovery or high pressure processing), as well as product subjected to anhydrous ammonium.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA

Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250

Main Office -- (202) 205-0495

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BlackBerry -- (202) 368-5457 -- emergency only

Fax -- (202) 720-2025

Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

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**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:10 PM  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Cc:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

Phil:

I had your old email in my outlook. The attached is fyi. I will call in a second. We wanted to make sure you knew this was moving.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:09 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - FNS; Derfler, Philip -FSIS (Philip.Derfler@usda.gov); Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** FW: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

The attached Decision Memo went to our Agency's Controlled Correspondence office for delivery to the Administrator's Office for movement on from there.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

FYI:

**From:** [DeJong, Justin - OC](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Cc:** [Paul, Matt - OC](#); [Rowe, Courtney - OC](#); [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); (b) (6) - FNS; [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(5)  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:20:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12\(5\).docx](#)

---

(b) (6)

**Super close hold**, but please begin drafting media materials based on option 3 presented in the attached memo. Please collaborate with FNS and FSIS as there are messages from other agencies that likely need to be included.

Thanks,

**Justin DeJong**

Deputy Director, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.690.0548  
USDA Cell: 202.251.3309  
[justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov](mailto:justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov)  
<http://www.usda.gov>

*Stay Connected with USDA:*





**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: As a registered dietitian, I am being asked about the pink slime scandal. What s...  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:27:23 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 3:38 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: As a registered dietitian, I am being asked about the pink slime scandal. What s...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@vidanthealth.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120323-000025

**Summary:** As a registered dietitian, I am being asked about the pink slime scandal. What s...  
**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress

**Product Level 1:** Nutrition

**Product Level 2:** Food Composition data

**Date Created:** 03/23/2012 12:57 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/23/2012 12:57 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/23/2012 12:57 PM

As a registered dietitian, I am being asked about the pink slime scandal. What should I tell them. Is it harmful or just an additive to stretch meat.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: beef additives  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:53:52 AM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 2:24 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: beef additives

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) @gmail.com [mailto:(b) (6) @gmail.com]  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 9:22 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - Beef additives

Can you tell me when the USDA will reverse the designation on finely textured beef A K A "pink slime" and stop calling it "meat". Under secretary Joann Smith's self-serving determination that it was meat is an unfortunate blemish on USDA's otherwise excellent record. It would be a shame if the USDA did not address this egregious error which borders on criminal dereliction of duty just to avoid admitting there have been unethical, self-serving, and thoroughly disgusting people in your organization. Please stop school lunches from including this offal and awful filler in hamburger. Thank you.

David Wiseley P O Box 293 Waters, MI 49797  
PH (b) (6)

**From:** [Misty Dyson](#)  
**To:** [Bryan, James - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Beef industry braces for loss of "pink slime" filler-- VIDEO  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:44:15 AM

---

*Misty Dyson*  
*Mays Meats*  
*Taylorsville, NC 28681*  
*1-828-632-2034*  
[www.maysmeats.com](http://www.maysmeats.com)

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Jimmy Mays (b) (6) @yahoo.com>  
**To:** Misty Dyson (b) (6) @yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:39 AM  
**Subject:** Fw: Beef industry braces for loss of 'pink slime' filler-- VIDEO

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Rick Popp (b) (6) @hotmail.com>  
**To:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:54 PM  
**Subject:** Beef industry braces for loss of 'pink slime' filler-- VIDEO

Beef industry braces for loss of 'pink slime' filler-- VIDEO  
<http://yourlife.usatoday.com/fitness-food/safety/story/2012-03-27/Beef-industry-braces-for-loss-of-pink-slime-filler/53802154/1>

BPI suspends operations  
<http://www.gctelegram.com/news/bpi-holcomb-closure-32712>

**This is what started it all**

Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution: Pink Slime - 70% of America's Beef is Treated with Ammonia  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wshlnRWnf30>

Thank You,  
Rick Popp  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6) @hotmail.com

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Beef Is Beef  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:25:14 AM  
**Attachments:** [get-the-facts\\_3-151\[1\].pdf](#)  
[8645553\[1\].pdf](#)

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@diversey.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:26 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Beef Is Beef

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** "David Berghult" <(b) (6)@beefproducts.com>  
**Date:** Mar 26, 2012 3:54 PM  
**Subject:** Beef Is Beef  
**To:** "IASIU" <[IASIU@stores.fastenal.com](mailto:IASIU@stores.fastenal.com)>, "partsmgr" <[info@peerlessenergy.com](mailto:info@peerlessenergy.com)>, (b) (6)

(b) (6)

To all friends, family, and vendors;

As you may or may not know Beef Products has been under attack by a campaign of misleading information about our process started most recently by ABC News and their so called "Pink Slime" scare tactics. Beef Products is undertaking an effort to get out the real facts about our beef and our process. Please do a bit of research on your own to understand that our process is clean, safe, supported by many meat industry scientist, consumer advocate groups, etc. The list goes on and on. Below are some links as a starting point.

Please pass the information and links on to your friends and family to help them understand the real facts. You can call your local grocery stores and ask them if they carry ground beef with our product in it. Our actual product name is lean finely textured beef "LFTB". We produce 100% beef. Any statement otherwise is absolutely false.

We don't want to be confrontational by any means. We are just interested in educating people, friends, family, schools, and local leaders to name a few with the facts about our product. Let the retailers know that they should at least give the consumer a choice instead of just removing the product from the market.

The impact of the attack by ABC News reaches far beyond our small family owned company. It will start with all the communities in which we do business and operate our processing facilities. And all for what? There is nothing for the "Pink Slime" folks to stand on except the hysteria created by an intimidating and misleading name. Again please do your research, form your own opinion, and get the word out to all.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XF4-FgWHybU&context=C455111dADvjVQa1PpcFPXHSDcNqszZA6souGIJ7hffQatQWqWapo=>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eg585eHPYdg&context=C45d8ab8ADvjVQa1PpcFPXHSDcNqszZHS\\_XMR2GCAqVg\\_MQNWKo-M=](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eg585eHPYdg&context=C45d8ab8ADvjVQa1PpcFPXHSDcNqszZHS_XMR2GCAqVg_MQNWKo-M=)

<http://beefisbeef.com/>

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2012/03/23/how-abc-news-smear-stellar-company-with-pink-slime/>

<http://beefisbeef.com/2012/03/15/top-7-myths-of-pink-slime/>

<http://www.beefproducts.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/242152605881315/>

David Berghult

(b) (6)

Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

[605-217-8053](tel:605-217-8053) - office

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**From:** (b) (6) [FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) [- FSIS](#)  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) [- FSIS](#); (b) (6) [- FSIS](#); (b) (6) [- FSIS](#); (b) (6) [- FSIS](#); (b) (6) [- FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Beef Issue FYI: ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:04:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

(b) (6) ~ CSI

(b) (6) Est.10017

(b) (6) Est.10270

(b) (6) Est.10226



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**From:** Matt Anderson [mailto:(b) (6)@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:29 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: Beef Issue FYI: ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"

*MATT ANDERSON, VP*

**THE MEAT BLOCK, INC.**

**[OFFICE@231-773-0224](#) ---CEL @ (b) (6)**

**[EMAIL @ \(b\) \(6\)@YAHOO.COM](#)**

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Sam Bravata (b) (6)@troyers.com>  
**To:** Matt Anderson (b) (6)@yahoo.com>  
**Cc:** (b) (6)@comcast.net" (b) (6)@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 8, 2012 9:03 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Beef Issue FYI: ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"

Sam Bravata  
Direct Sales Rep.  
Troyer Foods  
Cell # (b) (6)  
(b) (6)@troyers.com

---

**From:** Terry Blythe  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:02 AM  
**To:** (b) (6);

(b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: Beef Issue FYI: ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"

Sales if you watched ABC news last night here's some information and facts about LFTB. Our Fresh grinds are 100% beef trimmings and do not have any LFTB added. Many times the LFTB is added by further processors when making Patties. Just an FYI.

Terry Blythe  
Director of Retail Sales  
Troyer Foods  
Cell (b) (6)

---

**From:** Hastings, Brent [mailto:(b) (6)@tyson.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:42 AM  
**Subject:** Beef Issue FYI: ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"

**From:** Season Solorio - NCBA [mailto:seasonsolorioncba@beef.org]

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

### **ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"**

*March 7, 2012*

Tonight [ABC News](#)--a national broadcast news outlet--aired a news investigation on the use of Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB), often called "pink slime," in supermarket ground beef. The three-minute segment features two former United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists, who strongly believe that LFTB should not be allowed to be labeled as meat. The newscast claims that 70 percent of all ground beef sold at the supermarket contains LFTB.

Ammonium hydroxide is used to produce a lean meat product that is added to ground beef to reduce the overall fat content without compromising flavor. It also has an anti-microbial effect. Ammonium hydroxide also is used in a variety of other processed foods, such as baked goods, gelatins and puddings, and cheeses, and can occur naturally in



foods.

We have several resources available, should you receive any questions about the safety of beef, including the talking points copied below, as well as a [USDA fact sheet](#) and a [Meat MythCrusher](#) video featuring Dr. Gary Acuff, Director, Center for Food Safety and Professor of Food and Microbiology at Texas A&M University. These materials are available at [Explorebeef.org](#).

Given that the segment airs at different times in different markets, we will be monitoring the media and social media environment in order to determine best response routes and opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact Season Solorio at [ssolorio@beef.org](mailto:ssolorio@beef.org).

*Funded by The Beef Checkoff*

# # #

**We have the safest, most wholesome beef supply in the world.**

- Ammonium hydroxide can be used as an antimicrobial to control and eliminate pathogens, such as *E. coli* O157:H7, which may be present in beef. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have determined this tool is safe. In addition to its use as an antimicrobial agent in meat products, the list of foods in which ammonium hydroxide is used as a direct food additive is extensive and includes baked goods, cheeses, chocolates, other confectionery (e.g., caramel) and puddings.
- According to USDA, only beef that has successfully completed the inspection requirements by the Food Safety and Inspection Service is eligible to enter into the national school lunch program (NSLP). The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) imposes strict requirements on food purchased by USDA for the NSLP to ensure that the food served to our children is safe and wholesome.
- Raising safe beef is the top priority for all cattlemen and is evidenced by their investment of \$30 million in beef safety research since 1993. The beef community as a whole invests \$550 million annually to research and implement food safety measures that include science, testing, implementation and validation.
- You can continue to feel confident buying and serving beef to your families.

**From:** [Johnson, Gary](#)  
**To:** (b) (6)  
FSIS; (b) (6) (IA) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) FSIS; Dr. (b) (6) (HOME); Dr. (b) (6)  
Dr. (b) (6) (HOME); Dr. (b) (6) (home); Dr. (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; (b) (6)  
; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Beef Issue FYI: The Doctors Examine "What's Really In Your Food?"  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 10:25:45 AM

---

FYI, thank you, Doc J

---

**From:** Nancy Degner [mailto:(b) (6)@iabeef.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 3:56 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Beef Issue FYI: The Doctors Examine "What's Really In Your Food?"

The Iowa State Daily posted a story on "Pink Slime" yesterday. "Pink Slime" is the product created by BPI – Beef Products, Inc of South Dakota- that has been added to ground beef sold in fast food restaurants. McDonald's (and Taco Bell and Burger King) recently dropped the product from their ground beef. The finely textured product is safe, economically and adds protein to the market. Check out the USDA Fact sheet listed below.

Here's the ISU Daily article - [http://www.iowastatedaily.com/news/article\\_650f64f4-60a3-11e1-84e3-001871e3ce6c.html](http://www.iowastatedaily.com/news/article_650f64f4-60a3-11e1-84e3-001871e3ce6c.html)

It's another example of how the activists and media create concern and fear about our food supply in consumers' minds.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Season Solorio - NCBA [mailto:seasonsolorioncba@beef.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 3:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)@iabeef.org  
**Subject:** Beef Issue FYI: The Doctors Examine "What's Really In Your Food?"

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

## **The Doctors Examine "What's Really In Your Food?"**

*February 27, 2012*

Today, [The Doctors](#)--an Emmy-nominated, nationally [syndicated](#) television show co-hosted by four doctors--examines "what's really in your food?" and the ingredients that go into certain foods. A portion of the show, which is currently available [on-line](#), discusses the process of lean finely textured beef, which is a generally recognized as safe (GRAS) food additive. Though the Doctors note that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) considers this process safe, the Doctors still recommend that viewers buy "organic" and "local" beef.

We have several resources available, should you receive questions about the safety of lean finely textured beef, including a [USDA fact sheet](#) and a Meat MythCrusher [video](#) featuring Dr. Gary Acuff, Director, Center for Food Safety and Professor of Food Microbiology at Texas A&M University. Finally, the [beef choices fact sheet](#) discusses the variety of beef choices that are available and that all choices are safe, nutritious and delicious. All of these resources are available on [ExploreBeef.org](#).

Given that the episode airs at different times in different markets, we will be monitoring the media and social media environment in order to determine best response routes and opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact Season Solorio at [ssolorio@beef.org](mailto:ssolorio@beef.org).

*Funded by The Beef Checkoff*

# # #



This email was sent to [\(b\) \(6\)@iabeef.org](#) by [seasonsolorioncba@beef.org](mailto:seasonsolorioncba@beef.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).  
NCBA | 9110 East Nichols Ave | Suite 300 | Centennial | CO | 80112



**From:** [Kishore, Rita - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [Harries, Rick - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Beef trimmings  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:09:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [853-2004 consleg.pdf](#)

---

(b) (6)

Seems like this is common practice in the EU. When (b) (6) comes back he will let us know about UK. As you can well imagine FAS is not too keen to ask the Commission about it.

Rita

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@fas.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:26 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) (FAS)  
**Subject:** RE: Beef trimmings

Rita,

(b) (6) is likely giving us wise advice for the UK. (b) (6) is away at a conference this week, but if feasible, he may be able to make a quiet inquiry at the technical level when he returns. The definition of "beef trimmings" may be quite important here. Does FSIS have a technical definition?

From discussions I have had with the OIE here in Paris, production of mechanically separated or recovered meat is a common industry practice worldwide, including in the EU. One can only guess where it ends up. The question becomes how the hygiene/bacteria issue is dealt with for this product in the EU?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) (USEU)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:56 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (USEU); 'Kishore, Rita - FSIS'; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6) (USEU); (b) (6) (USEU); (b) (6) (USEU)  
**Subject:** RE: Beef trimmings

On other point: All of the beef coming to Europe is NHTC beef: I suppose this would typically not include this type of ingredient, correct? (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) (USEU)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:50 PM  
**To:** 'Kishore, Rita - FSIS'; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) (USEU); (b) (6) (USEU); (b) (6) (USEU)

**Subject:** RE: Beef trimmings

Hello Rita:

I have to admit that this is the first time I hear someone use the term “pink slime”. Rita: At this stage of the negotiations on the beef deal and especially lactic acid, I feel rather uncomfortable about checking with the Commission where this issue would exactly fall under EU legislation. And I am sure the U.S. industry would not want to see their exports to Europe linked to these words as well.

I don't really know for sure where this issue would come. I believe ammonium hydroxide is authorized as a food additive, but I will ask my colleague (b) (6) to give you more details on this as I am not entirely familiar with the revised regulations for additives. More specifically, she could say whether this substance would be authorized in meat products.

There are also rules on rendering of animal fats (see Section XII of the attached). I don't know if these would be relevant in this context.

Sorry this is the best I have for now.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

U.S. Mission to the EU | Foreign Agriculture Service

Tel: (b) (6) | Fax: (32-2) 811 5560

e-mail: (b) (6) [@fas.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fas.usda.gov)

[www.fas.usda.gov/posthome/useu](http://www.fas.usda.gov/posthome/useu)

---

**From:** Kishore, Rita - FSIS [mailto:Rita.Kishore@fsis.usda.gov]

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:35 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6) (USEU); (b) (6)

**Subject:** Beef trimmings

Hello (b) (6) and (b) (6)

Hope you can help us. According to the article beef trimmings are banned for human consumption in the UK, is that true. I would appreciate your help. As you can see this is a very hot issue for us and would appreciate a quick response.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-pink-slime-20120309,0,1330346.story>

Thanks

Rita

**(b) (6)**

Are beef trimmings also banned in the EU?

Thanks

Rita

Rita Kishore

Deputy Director

Export Programs Staff

Office of International Affairs

Phone: 202 720 8911

---

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Bess Ross letter  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:58:25 PM

---

fyi

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:58 PM  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Bess Ross letter

Hi Rene – I think we should probably hold off on all “pink slime” responses now that the department has come out with both a changed policy (for AMS’ NSLP) and a more detailed statement on LFTB, per the press release that just went out.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature   **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Bess Ross letter

Martha:

Please update (see attached) and return via email so that I can clear for signature.

<< File: Ross-Pink Slime[1][1][1].docx >>

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often   **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature   **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Boneless Lean Beef Trimmings  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 6:34:22 AM  
**Attachments:** [Pink Slime Sites.doc](#)

---

FYI

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 6:29 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Boneless Lean Beef Trimmings

Boneless Lean Beef Trimmings

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: FW: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny  
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 9:29:13 PM

---

Well here goes 4 of the big beef plants. That means someone is going to have to step up and produce more. They claim they cannot keep up with demand now.

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 8:25 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

The beef plant is Tyson/IBP this plant is hooked to it through BPI owned by a guy named Eldon Roth. He was an inventor of this system. Very nice guy with allot of money.

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 8:23 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

Is this the big beef plant in Holcomb?

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 7:42 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

This is a sad deal. One of the only true clean facilities I have ever been in. Spare no expense type of business to get things done right.

## 236 jobs lost in Holcomb KS.

## BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

Published 3/26/2012 in Breaking : Business

By JOSEPH JACKMOVICH  
jjackmovich@gctelegram.com

A local beef manufacturing plant that produces what's known in the industry as "lean, finely textured beef," but is referred to as "pink slime" by those seeking to have it banned, has stopped operations at its Holcomb plant, causing a loss of 236 local jobs.

Beef Products Inc., 3105 N IBP Road, announced Monday that it was closing its Holcomb, Amarillo, Texas, and Waterloo, Iowa plants. While company officials hope the closings are temporary, employees were informed Monday that the closing would be permanent to be in compliance with the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act. The company's Dakota Dunes, S.D. plant will continue operations.

According to BPI Corporate Administrator Rich Jochum, employees will receive full salary and benefits until May 25. Jochum said that the company had no timeline as to when it would know whether the closings would be permanent.

The company has been the subject of nationwide scrutiny due to its product, which uses meat trimmings separated from fat and treated with ammonia gas to be used as a meat filler in ground beef.

The ingredient has been used for years but recently became a target of activists seeking to have it banned from supermarkets and school lunches. The U.S. Department of Agriculture decided to allow school districts to stop using it. Some retail chains have pulled products containing it.

Read more: <http://www.gctelegram.com/news/BREAKING-NEWS--BPI-closing-3-26-12#ixzz1qFm2JmCe>

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: BPI questions  
**Date:** Friday, February 17, 2012 1:35:33 PM

---

----- Original Message -----

From: Knowles, David [[mailto:D\(b\) \(6\)@thedaily.com](mailto:D(b) (6)@thedaily.com)]  
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 12:31 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron  
Subject: Re: BPI questions

Thanks, Aaron. We'll be working on the story next week, so there is time to get your questions answered and in the piece. I'm off until Tues., but can be reached then at (b) (6). I am based on the west coast.

-David

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: BPI questions  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 8:21:38 AM

---

See below - we need to get back to this guy today.

-----Original Message-----

From: Knowles, David [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@thedaily.com](mailto:(b) (6)@thedaily.com)]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8:50 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron  
Subject: RE: BPI questions

Aaron,

Back from the 3-day weekend. Thank you for your responses below. I'm wondering if you've had a chance to follow up on the other information you were checking on.

Best,  
David Knowles  
(b) (6) (Pacific Standard Time)

---

From: Lavallee, Aaron [[Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov)]  
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 10:10 AM  
To: Knowles, David  
Cc: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Subject: RE: BPI questions

David,  
My apologies for the delay - I was out sick yesterday. I want to make clear that our emails off the record for now.

I am going to need some time to look in to this and will loop in my colleague Dirk on this email.

I am not familiar with either of these gentlemen but I have some concerns with their statements below and your plan to use them.

I need to make very clear what FSIS does. FSIS is responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, correctly labeled and packaged. So if the validity of these individuals is based on the fact that they were FSIS employees then we have concerns because FSIS does not "consider something to be ground beef" and does not determine "inferior quality." FSIS is in the business of inspecting, not grading. So what these gentlemen are saying would appear to be personal opinions, not professional assessments or statements.

Also I would double check some of the dates as I believe JoAnn Smith may have been at USDA well before that.

We are going to do some checking on this and get back with you shortly. What is your timeline and the best number to reach you at?

Aaron Lavallee  
Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Office Direct: 202.720.6959  
Cell: (b) (6)  
aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov  
<http://www.usda.gov>

Stay Connected with USDA:

-----Original Message-----

From: Knowles, David [mailto:(b) (6)@thedaily.com]  
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 3:40 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron  
Subject: BPI questions

Dear Aaron,

I've been asked to do another story on the BPI's product that will look into the red flags raised by two former FSIS employees, Carl Custer and Gerald Zirnstein. I've interviewed both gentlemen and wanted to give USDA a chance to respond to some of the statements that each has made that will be used in the piece.

Mr. Zirnstein says he visited BPI's factory in 2002 and that he raised concerns about their LBT product. In a March 2002 e-mail, Zirnstein termed the product "pink slime" and said he did not consider it to be ground beef (as per the USDA's definition). Does this jibe with USDA's recollection?

Mr. Custer, along with others in the department, received that e-mail, which confirmed his conclusions about BPI's product. Custer said he first encountered BPI back in the late 90's, and also concluded that the LBT was of an "inferior quality" to ground beef. It is his recollection that in 2002, then undersecretary JoAnn Smith declared of BPI's product, "If it's pink, then it's meat," and that FSIS dropped its objections to the LBT product thereafter. Can you corroborate or deny any of that?

Since the Dec. 30 2009 New York Times article detailing cases of E-Coli in BPI meat, what measures has USDA taken to insure that their LBT product is inspected on a regular basis? Are there any other steps USDA and FSIS have taken to allay the concerns raised by Mr. Zirnstein and Mr. Custer?

Thank you, once again, for your help with this. It's important to me to have the facts of this story reported properly.

Best,  
David Knowles  
Reporter, The Daily  
(b) (6)

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**From:** [Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Almanza, Al - FSIS](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: BPI suspends operations at three plants  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 4:14:17 PM

---

FYI.

Carmen M. Rottenberg  
Chief of Staff

Office of the Administrator

Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Ave., SW

Washington, D.C. 20250

Telephone: (202) 720-6618

Fax: (202) 690-0550

Email: [carmen.rottenberg@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carmen.rottenberg@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 3:59 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI suspends operations at three plants

Amarillo is now proceeding like Holcomb. Tallow tomorrow, uncertain thereafter.

---

**From:** Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 3:41 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Almanza, Al - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Cc:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI suspends operations at three plants

Des Moines was just notified on the Waterloo plant of their voluntary suspension.

Nothing yet on Amarillo

On Holcomb - We were just notified by Corporate BPI that the facility in Holcomb, KS Est. 13456 will produce Edible Tallow with the "meat" going to Inedible Rendering. At this time they have only committed to running the Edible Tallow through Wednesday, but this could change and we will keep you in the loop if they suspend these operations.

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 3:37 PM  
**To:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Almanza, Al - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS  
**Cc:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Subject:** BPI suspends operations at three plants

## BPI suspends operations at three plants

By [Lisa M. Keefe](#) on 3/26/2012

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

Beef Products Inc. today suspended operations at three of its locations: Garden City, Kans.; Amarillo, Texas; and Waterloo, Iowa, affecting 650 jobs. A fourth plant, in South Sioux City, Neb., will continue to operate.

"In an effort to protect our company and its family of employees from the recent unfounded and misguided attacks on our boneless lean beef trimmings, we have had to make some unfortunate and very difficult business decisions," CEO Eldon Roth said in a statement.

Although the plants are shut down for an undetermined amount of time, for now employees will continue to be paid "full salaries and benefits to all employees as we work through the immediate impact of today's announcement."

"Although we are immediately ceasing operation, our intention is to continue to pay people in the interim while trying to sort this through," BPI spokesman Rich Jochum he told **Meatingplace**. "We're announcing it as a temporary suspension, although the employees will be getting [layoff] notices."

The shutdown affects 236 employees in Garden City, 207 in Amarillo, and 216 in Waterloo, Jochum said. "This has a direct impact on about 650 jobs; the indirect impact is much larger," Jochum said.

The facility in South Sioux City, Neb., which employs 450, remains in operation.

### Industry reacts

"At a time when so many Americans struggle to put a healthy, nutritious meal on their family's dinner table, the unfounded mischaracterization of Lean Finely Textured Beef as 'pink slime' is unconscionable," said Barry Carpenter, CEO of the National Meat Association, in a statement. "I am sure the public is not aware of how widespread and potentially devastating the consequences of allowing public misperception to trump sound nutritional science are."

Carpenter warned that beyond BPI, the ripple effect could impact more than 3,000 suppliers and others that rely on BPI's business. He also noted without this source of lean beef product, grinders will likely have to import more beef to make lean ground beef products.

###



**From:** [Hortin, Steve - FNS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Call from Reporter-Ammoniated Beef  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:41:48 PM

---

Dirk, the Florida Department of Education received some questions from a Sun Sentinel reporter asking about ammoniated beef in USDA programs (see below). Brenda Halbrook mentioned that there may have been a release yesterday related to the subject. Do you have anything you can share with us? Thanks.

Steve Hortin  
Deputy Director  
School and Family Nutrition Section  
Special Nutrition Programs, Southeast Region  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service  
Ph: 404-562-3019  
Fax: 404-527-4514  
[steve.hortin@fns.usda.gov](mailto:steve.hortin@fns.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Halbrook, Brenda - FNS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:07 PM  
**To:** Hortin, Steve - FNS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** RE: Call from Reporter

Hi Steve:

Yes, there was some discussion up here yesterday about ammoniated beef and the NSLP. I am copying (b) (6) to keep her in the loop and see if she has any suggestions.

From what I know, FSIS took the lead in issuing some kind of statement yesterday. Here is the contact information of the FSIS press/media person:

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

I'll gladly put you back on the list.

Best,

Brenda

Brenda Halbrook, M.S., R.D.

Director, Office of Food Safety  
Special Nutrition Programs  
Food & Nutrition Service, USDA  
Phone: 703-305-2608  
FAX: 703-305-2420  
brenda.halbrook@fns.usda.gov

---

**From:** Hortin, Steve - FNS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:52 PM  
**To:** Halbrook, Brenda - FNS  
**Subject:** FW: Call from Reporter  
**Importance:** High

Brenda, I referred them to their own FD colleagues in Florida for info on how USDA foods get to schools. Do you know if there had been any discussion up there following the story this week on ammonia beef? Let me know if there's someone else we should check with. Thanks.

By the way, can you put me back on your distribution list for these announcements? (b) (6) sent me this one. Thanks!

[http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/\\_news/2012/01/31/10282876-mcdonalds-drops-use-of-gooey-ammonia-based-pink-slime-in-hamburger-meat](http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/01/31/10282876-mcdonalds-drops-use-of-gooey-ammonia-based-pink-slime-in-hamburger-meat)

Steve Hortin  
Deputy Director  
School and Family Nutrition Section  
Special Nutrition Programs, Southeast Region  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service  
Ph: 404-562-3019  
Fax: 404-527-4514  
[steve.hortin@fns.usda.gov](mailto:steve.hortin@fns.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@freshfromflorida.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:13 PM  
**To:** Hortin, Steve - FNS  
**Subject:** Call from Reporter  
**Importance:** High

Hi Steve,

We have to respond to the following questions from a reporter. Can you help?

The South Florida Sun Sentinel has called to ask about beef served in schools after McDonald's announced yesterday they are going to stop serving ammonia treated beef. Specifically, they asked:

- Is ammonia-treated beef product served in schools?
- How does the beef produce reach schools? Is it distributed through the USDA commodities program? (he specifically said "is there some central warehouse?")
- Does the department have any thoughts on serving this product in schools? And do we

have a plan to remove it now that McDonald's has?

(b) (6), R.D.L.D.

Program Administration Director

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Food, Nutrition and Wellness

(b) (6)

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

(b) (6) direct  
(b) (6) Toll free  
(b) (6) Fax

(b) (6) @freshfromflorida.com

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Calls from the Media or Consumers on Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:03:07 PM

---

I just wanted to give you a heads-up Doc. I put in the good word for you as the pink slime subject matter expert so don't be surprised when the consumers start calling!

PS (b) (6) was identified as your alternate.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:49 PM  
**To:** ORA NYK/BUF All Employees  
**Subject:** Calls from the Media or Consumers on Pink Slime

USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline  
888-674-6854

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Can you please explain the term "Pink Slime".  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:51:08 AM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:36 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Can you please explain the term "Pink Slime".

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@comcast.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120310-000037

**Summary:** Can you please explain the term "Pink Slime".  
**Rule State:** 999.1 Expert Assign Queue  
**Product Level 1:** Additives

**Product Level 2:** General

**Date Created:** 03/10/2012 09:46 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/10/2012 09:46 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/10/2012 09:46 PM

Can you please explain the term "Pink Slime".

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**Cc:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: CNN Story Just Ran on Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:58:12 AM

---

Aaron,

(b) (6) saw the CNN piece we talked about earlier. His notes below. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
**Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs**  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:52 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** CNN Story Just Ran on Pink Slime

Focus was that Publix, Safeway, and Whole Foods are saying they won't sell the stuff. The host talked about how grossed out she was, but the reporter, Elizabeth Cohen, noted that there's nothing unsafe about it, and in fact the ammonium hydroxide was for the purposes of controlling E.Coli.

Christopher Gould

Congressional & Public Affairs Office

USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service

202-690-4546 (desk)

202-365-0186 (cell)

202-720-5704 (fax)

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often    **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature    **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Complainant alleges he didn't receive a letter  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 2:22:51 PM

---

(b) (6),

This is your case: 2011-0759.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) **M.P.H., M.S.**

**USDA/FSIS/OPHS/AED**

**Lieutenant, USPHS**

**Surveillance Epidemiologist**

**1400 Independence Ave., SW**

**Stop 3766, PP3, Room 9-233A**

**work:** (b) (6)

**fax: 202-690-6364**

**email:** (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

" THIS IS THE DAY WHICH THE LORD HAS MADE; WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT." PSALM 118:24

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Complainant alleges he didn't receive a letter

This person says he never got a letter but said a young woman investigator called him on the phone and said to throw away the evidence. He has been reading about "pink slime" and now thinks that's what made his family sick.

Can you check on his case? (He doesn't know the case number).



(b) (6)

(b) (6)

New York, NY 10533

(b) (6)@verizon.net

(b) (6)

Food Safety Specialist

USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline

Room 2L254-B

5601 Sunnyside Ave.

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(b) (6)

Fax (301) 504-2092

1 (888) MPHotline or 1 (888) 674-6854

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: complaints today?  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:59:01 PM

---

No CCMS ones from me.. (b) (6)

Folks,

I would like to know if you all had any "pink slime" calls today – if so, how many, please?

Thank you

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** complaints today?

I have to run to a 3:00pm meeting, please forward any complaints to me, and I will file with CCMS when I return.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

*Food Safety Specialist*

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2-L248C, MS- 5269

5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6)

Need Food Safety Answers?

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854

or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#); [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Constituent Update - March 23, 2012  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 4:10:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [Update 03.23.12.pdf](#)

---

Linda and Greg,

Although too late now, I would have liked to change the lead stories headline to include something about microbiology so we don't get overrun by pink slime/LTF beef folks. If we get a second bite at the apple, maybe we can refine it:

## **NACMCF to Meet on Testing Methods for National School Lunch Program**

Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** FSIS Constituents  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 3:43 PM  
**To:** 'USDA-FSISCONSTITUENTS@newsbox.usda.gov'  
**Subject:** Constituent Update - March 23, 2012

## **Constituent Update**

**March 23, 2012**

## **NACMCF to Hold Meeting on National School Lunch Program Purchases**

The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold a public meeting via teleconference on March 28 from 2 to 5 p.m. ET. Items on the agenda will include: assistance to the AMS with the Federal Purchase Ground Beef Program; *Staphylococcus aureus* and other criteria used in the ground beef purchase for the NSLP; and alternative screening methods for ground beef beyond those in the FSIS Microbiology Laboratory Guidebook and determining acceptable screening procedures.

FSIS will finalize the agenda on or before the meeting and post it on the FSIS website at [www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings\\_&\\_Events/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings_&_Events/).

All documents related to the full committee meeting will be available at USDA-FSIS,

Room 8-164, Patriots Plaza III, 355 E St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250. Documents will also be available at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/Federal\\_Register\\_Notices/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Federal_Register_Notices/index.asp). To register or to provide public comment, contact Karen Thomas-Sharp at (202) 690-6620 or [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov).

### ***NACMCF Seeks Nominations for Members***

Applications and nominations for membership are being sought from individuals with scientific expertise in the fields of epidemiology, food technology, microbiology (food, clinical, and predictive), risk assessment, infectious disease, biostatistics and other related sciences. Persons from the academia, industry, consumer groups, State governments and the federal government, as well as all other interested persons with such expertise, are invited to submit nominations. Members who are not federal government employees will be appointed to serve as non-compensated special government employees (SGEs). SGEs will be subject to appropriate conflict of interest statutes and standards of ethical conduct.

To receive consideration for serving on the NACMCF, nominees must submit a resume and USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755. The resume or curriculum vitae must be limited to five one-sided pages and should include educational background, expertise and a list of select publications. For submissions received that are more than five one-sided pages in length, only the first five pages will be reviewed. USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755 is available online at: <http://www.ocio.usda.gov/forms/doc/AD-755.pdf>.

Nominations including a cover letter to the Secretary, and the nominee's typed resume or curriculum vitae and a completed USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755 must be received by April 23, 2012. Self nominations are welcome.

Nomination packages can be mailed to: Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Attn: National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods.

For further information, contact Karen Thomas-Sharp, Advisory Committee Specialist, at 202-690-6620 or [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov). To read the *Federal Register* notice, go to <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2012-0010.htm>.

### **Export Requirement Updates**

The Library of Export Requirements has been updated to reflect changes in export

requirements for the following countries:

**Canada**

**Cuba**

**Hong Kong**

**Japan**

Complete information can be found at

[www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/Export\\_Information/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Export_Information/index.asp).

### **National Advisory Committee Discusses Proposed Rule on the Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection**

FSIS hosted a Web conference meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) on March 20 to solicit comments and hear discussion on the “Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection Proposed Rule” that was published in the *Federal Register* on January 27. Eleven committee members participated in the meeting.

FSIS presented an overview of the proposed rule and then opened the meeting up to discussion. The comments and input from committee members will help inform the agency’s decision making on the final rule.

Public comments on the meeting can be e-mailed to [NACMPI@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:NACMPI@fsis.usda.gov) or mailed to NACMPI, USDA, FSIS, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1180, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250. All submissions must include the agency name and docket number FSIS-2012-0016.

Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or by mail to: USDA, FSIS, OPPD, RIMD, Docket Clearance Unit, Patriots Plaza III, Room 8-164, 355 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024.

### **New Podcasts**

Tune in to podcasts on selecting, handling and preparing meat and poultry products to reduce the risk of foodborne illness. FSIS released these podcasts helpful to consumers.

**Food Safety Discovery Zone**

**(English and Spanish)**

**Safe Food Handling of Leftovers**

## (Spanish)

Check out these podcast at [www.fsis.usda.gov/news\\_&\\_events/Podcasts/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&_events/Podcasts/index.asp). Spanish language consumer podcasts are available at [www.fsis.usda.gov/En\\_Espanol/Podcasts\\_SP/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En_Espanol/Podcasts_SP/index.asp). Video-casts in American Sign Language are available at [www.fsis.usda.gov/news\\_&\\_events/SignFSIS/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&_events/SignFSIS/index.asp).

### Updates on FSIS Testing for *E. coli*

Weekly updates for the agency's raw beef *E. coli* sampling program are posted to the FSIS website.

For comparative previous and current year results, go to [www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Ground\\_Beef\\_E.coli\\_Testing\\_Results/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Ground_Beef_E.coli_Testing_Results/index.asp).

### FSIS Policy Updates

FSIS issues notices and directives to protect public health. The following policy updates were recently issued:

**Notice 21-12**, *Randomly Selecting Beef Trim to Be Collected Under the Beef Manufacturing Trimmings (Mt50) Sampling Program*

**Notice 22-12**, *Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program*

**Notice 24-12**, *Importation of Live Cattle from Mexico into the United States for Immediate Slaughter*

**Notice 25-12**, *Pasteurized Egg Products Imported in Bulk Containers from Canada*

All notices and directives are available at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp).

### Codex Public Meeting on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food

FSIS and the FDA are sponsoring a public meeting to receive public comments and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 20th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF), which will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The public meeting will be held on April 23 from 1 to 4 p.m. ET in the Jamie L. Whitten Bldg., USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm. 107-A, Washington, D.C. 20250. Documents and agenda items related to the 20th Session of the CCRVDF will be accessible on the Codex website at [www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org).

The following items will be discussed during the public meeting:

Draft Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) for Veterinary Drugs;

Revision of the Committee's Risk Analysis Principles;

Proposed amendments to the Committee's terms of reference; and

Risk management recommendations for the veterinary drugs for which no MRL has been recommended by the expert scientific committee because of human health concerns.

For more information or to submit written comments about the 20th Session of the CCRVDF, contact Kevin Greenlees at (240) 276-8214 or [kevin.greenlees@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:kevin.greenlees@fda.hhs.gov).

For more information about the public meeting, contact Kenneth Lowery at (202) 690-4042 or [kenneth.lowery@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:kenneth.lowery@fsis.usda.gov).

## **Visit USDA's Blog**

Every day, the USDA Blog shares something new about USDA's expansive mission. The blog provides a rich and diverse look at the work within the department, spanning the nation—and even the world—and highlights the breadth of USDA programs and the role they play in the lives of every American.

Go to <http://blogs.usda.gov/> and see what's happening within the agency and across the department. Check out Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Elisabeth Hagen's blog "Setting the Record Straight on Beef" at <http://blogs.usda.gov/2012/03/22/setting-the-record-straight-on-beef/>.

## **Follow Us on Twitter**

Find food safety information for at-risk people along with tips and resources to keep consumers and other interested groups informed of the latest agency news and events. Follow FSIS on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.twitter.com/USDAFoodSafety).

You can also receive alerts about recalls in your state and how to keep food safe during severe weather in your area by follow FSIS' state Twitter feeds. A list of all FSIS state food safety alert Twitter feeds is available at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fsis\\_Recalls/Open\\_Federal\\_Cases/index.asp#Twitter](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fsis_Recalls/Open_Federal_Cases/index.asp#Twitter).

## **Also Tweet En Español**

The FSIS Spanish language Twitter feed keeps consumers and other interested communities informed of the latest agency news and events and provides useful food safety tips.



Follow FSIS' Spanish Twitter account at [www.twitter.com/usdafoodsfe\\_es](https://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsfe_es).

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Consumers want to know if PINK SLIME is in their beef. We are your customers. Ho...  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 1:17:27 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:33 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Consumers want to know if PINK SLIME is in their beef. We are your customers. Ho...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120315-000067

**Summary:** Consumers want to know if PINK SLIME is in their beef. We are your customers. Ho...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/15/2012 07:53 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/15/2012 07:53 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### **Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

03/15/2012 07:53 PM

Consumers want to know if PINK SLIME is in their beef. We are your customers. How about labels that tell us? We are not going to buy ground beef unless we know for sure. we will use ground turkey and other substitutes until we see labels or we will also use local fresh ground beef. Bottom line unless we know for sure, no purchase.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: contact information  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:38:07 PM

---

I emailed Washington this morning requesting a response from them. Below is the response I received. See you at the meeting.

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: contact information

Thank you, sir! And, thanks for trumpeting out in the field the good work the agency and its employees are accomplishing! I hope to have some more information soon. Unfortunately, a lot of our efforts are focused on the "pink slime" issue de jour for today, but I'm hopeful this won't last past today so we can focus on other things...

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: contact information

Good Morning Dirk,

I was wondering if you have an update for me regarding the TV show "The Morning Blend" request for someone from USDA to appear on their talk show to discuss food safety? We're rapidly running out of time as to when they were wanting someone from USDA to appear on their show (Monday, 3/26/2012). If possible, I'd appreciate a response from your office by tomorrow, Friday, 3/16/2012. Out of respect for their talk show, I need to be letting the Executive Producer of the talk show know if USDA is going to be able to appear on their show or no so if needed, they can schedule something different on the day they were wanting USDA to appear. Also, if you think this is something that USDA can do at a later date, let me know this so that I can ask the Executive Producer if she is able to reschedule the date for USDA to appear on their show. I want to thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Hope you have a pleasant day.

(b) (6)

*USDA-FSIS Consumer Safety Inspector*

*3000 Kennedy Ave.*

*Beloit, WI 53511*

*Phone #: (b) (6)*

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** contact information

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: Could you explain your position on "pink slime" added to our hamburger? I would ...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:06:50 AM

---

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 02:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Could you explain your position on "pink slime" added to our hamburger? I would ...

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:54 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Could you explain your position on "pink slime" added to our hamburger? I would ...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.  
thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@jpbrown.org  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

**Reference #120308-000086**

**Summary:** Could you explain your position on "pink slime" added to our hamburger? I would ...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 08:50 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 08:50 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

**Discussion Thread****Customer By Web Form**

03/08/2012 08:50 PM

Could you explain your position on "pink slime" added to our hamburger? I would like to know which meat has this so I can choose another option. I don't want ammonia in my hamburger.

Thank you, Sharon Kenny

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Daily Show Clips  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:44:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)



Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** DeJong, Justin - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:36 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** FW: Daily Show Clips

FYI.

**Justin DeJong**

Deputy Director, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.690.0548  
USDA Cell: 202.251.3309  
[justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov](mailto:justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov)  
<http://www.usda.gov>

*Stay Connected with USDA:*





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**From:** JIC2, OC - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:38 AM  
**To:** DeJong, Justin - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; (b) (6) - OC  
**Cc:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** Daily Show Clips

**Jon Talks About Pink Slime (Comedy Central 3/28) [Link](#)**

jon: bull ( bleep )! you got rid of it because we found out it was Pink Slime. oh, it was a coincidence, just like, you know, that diet pill from the 80s, and they changed it-- every product has some filler. for example, the u.s.d.a. allows me to market this as a comedy show but any effort will include 15% of finely textured product. grounded up jokes, swear words. oh, we're good. we're smart people, though. we can figure this out. what can we do? what can we do? ah! i've got it. Pink Slime is allowed to make up 15% of our ground beef product so maybe we could have our burgers be 100% beef but just 15% smaller. yeah. i'm just spitballing here, which, by the way, is about 7% of most burgers. let's just cut out the Pink Slime. a win-win-win-win.

the makeerce of the meat filler known as ping Slime has suspended operations at all but one of its plant.

200 people will lose their jobs at three plant.

jon: we're a Pink Slime-based economy. ( laughter ). so by not putting Pink Slime in my kids' mouths, i'm taking Slime out of the mouths of kids trying to put Slime on their family's table. guilty and nauseous. well played, meat industry, well employeeed.

jooooon!

jon: this could be a whole new start for america. maybe we should go macrobiotic, organic, locally raised grass fed cattle raised from family farm, not factories, no Pink Slime.

jooon, i know you still want me, Pink Slime and all.

jon: no, i can't give in to your mechanically separated meat pulp.

i'm finely textured.

jon: you're a jerk and a liar!

look at me.

jon: i deserve fresh, grade-a, ammonia free--

goddamn it, johnny, i'm your best friend! don't you walk away from me! we belong together! ( applause )

jon: you know what? i can't stay mad at you. ( laughter ) you know what, buddy? you've been so good. i'm ready to.

aahhhh! yeah! ( laughter )

jon: too much.

feels right, doesn't it, jon, huh? ( laughter ) your mouth too full to respond? i'll give you a second. now use your show to tell the world --

stephen: no, i don't think i should do that. no! why would you do that?

you can and you will!

jon: all right, i will! Pink Slime. face it, it's really no worse than ( bleep ) you already eat.

that's my guy!

jon: thank you. we'll be right back. ( applause )

Rachael Dubinsky  
Office of Communications  
United States Department of Agriculture  
[Pressoffice2@oc.usda.gov](mailto:Pressoffice2@oc.usda.gov)  
202-690-5000

*Stay Connected with USDA:*



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Does ground turkey contain pink slime too?  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:38:09 PM

---

Another pink slime:

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 7:33 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Does ground turkey contain pink slime too?

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@gmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120307-000054

**Summary:** Does ground turkey contain pink slime too?  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/07/2012 09:58 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/07/2012 09:58 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/07/2012 09:58 PM

Does ground turkey contain pink slime too?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: does mcdonalds use pink slime in hamburgers  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:28:31 PM

---

Another pink slime, with a twist:

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 7:48 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: does mcdonalds use pink slime in hamburgers

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@gmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120325-000012

**Summary:** does mcdonalds use pink slime in hamburgers  
**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress  
**Product Level 1:** Additives

**Product Level 2:** General

**Date Created:** 03/25/2012 12:00 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/25/2012 12:00 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/25/2012 12:00 PM

does mcdonalds use pink slime in hamburgers

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Does the USDA approve pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:27:44 PM

---

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 7:45 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Does the USDA approve pink slime

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@aol.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120324-000005

**Summary:** Does the USDA approve pink slime  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/24/2012 11:14 AM

**Last Updated:** 03/24/2012 11:14 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

**Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

03/24/2012 11:14 AM

Does the USDA approve pink slime



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Does Walmart meats contain "Pink Slime"?  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:29:34 AM

---

Greetings,

ECM control 7184162 was assigned to this inquiry.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*  
*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*  
*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*  
*Food Safety and Inspection Service*  
*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*  
*Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (202) 720-7609*

*Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)*



Check your Steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basis/index.html>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:54 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Does Walmart meats contain "Pink Slime"?

Could you draft a response?

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:56 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Does Walmart meats contain "Pink Slime"?

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@excite.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000091

**Summary:** Does Walmart meats contain "Pink Slime"?  
**Rule State:** 999.1 Expert Assign Queue  
**Product Level 1:** Antibiotics, Hormones, Residues  
**Product Level 2:** Residues  
**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 10:17 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 10:17 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/08/2012 10:17 PM

Does Walmart meats contain "Pink Slime"?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 1:10:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm](#)

---

Amazing that they got this approved in the 1<sup>st</sup> place it has a caustic chemical inside of it , and some how it got through all the labeling & haccp screening!

This shows you the power of the big bosses, she made over a million working in the beef industry after approving this process!

Give it time to load this site is very slow,,,,,,.....

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 5:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm





**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: Emailing: Report Supermarket Ground Beef Contains "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:02:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Report Supermarket Ground Beef Contains "Pink Slime" - Boston News Story - WCVB Boston.htm](#)

---

Fyi

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 07:13 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OM/CRD/Headquarters  
**Cc:** Grijalva, Frank - FSIS  
**Subject:** Emailing: Report Supermarket Ground Beef Contains 'Pink Slime'

Just so you know, and in case it should come up in conversation with our customers, this "pink slime" story was on ABC News last night, and the Department may be trying to do some spin control today. It didn't sound very good. Essentially, a couple of former USDA scientists have blown the whistle on the Department for allowing the plants and others to add a cheap meat substitute to our hamburger. Just a few weeks ago, McDonalds discontinued the practice.

<<Report Supermarket Ground Beef Contains 'Pink Slime' - Boston News Story - WCVB Boston.htm>>

**From:** [Chan, Stephanie - OC](#)  
**To:** [Lavalley, Aaron - OC](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Expired Meat  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:52:01 AM

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Is this us?

---

**From:** Czajkowski, Ellen [mailto:(b) (6)@kyw.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:47 AM  
**To:** Chan, Stephanie - OC  
**Subject:** Expired Meat

Hi Stephanie!

I hope you are doing well (I was last in touch about pink slime). I'm emailing because I'm working on a story about stores selling outdated/expired food, when it's safe to eat and when it's not safe.

I understand the USDA has jurisdiction over meat, and I'm wondering if it's a violation for stores to sell meat past the sell by date? If not, why? When does meat on shelves become a safety concern?

I've also been told that stores can visually inspect meat that is past the sell by date, and if it looks okay they can repackage it and put a new sell by date. How many times can that happen? Does the person inspecting the meat have certain qualifications? Why is that allowed?

Is it true that no matter how old meat is, if you cook it to the recommended temperature a person won't get sick? Or how long is meat really okay for?

Please let me know you got this email, and you're looking in to it. I'd like the answers asap, preferably by 2pm tomorrow. Thank you in advance!

Sincerely,  
Ellen Czajkowski, CBS-3 Philadelphia Health Producer  
(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: finely textured and ammonia  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 11:20:10 AM

---

Diane,

Again, I realize you're off today, so I may wait for Monday to discuss:

Below is Jeff Canavan's --with FSIS Labeling-- reply to my inquiry about ammonia use in beef –

(b) (6) keeping you in the loop – please review and let me know if this is something we can use currently, as related to ammonia usage,

Or wait for further clarification from downtown (talking points/ 'pink slime,' i.e.) from Dirk Filpot and discussion with Diane.

(b) (6)

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(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 11:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** finely textured and ammonia

Here is some language that may help.

Anhydrous ammonia is listed in FSIS Directive 7120.1 for use to treat ground beef and finely textured beef (FTB). Ground beef has a standard of identity in 9 CFR 319.15(a) and FTB is a meat food product produced from fresh meat trimmings that is subjected to low temperatures ranging from approximately 107° to 109°F to remove excess fat. FTB cannot have more than 30 percent fat unless it is identified as “Lean,” e.g., “Lean Finely Textured



Beef” whereby the fat content cannot exceed 10 percent. FTB may be used in the formulation of ground beef at up to 20 percent of the meat block as described in the Agriculture Marketing Service’s (AMS) Institutional Meat Purchase Specifications (IMPS), Item Number 136.

In this case, FSIS has determined that the approved use of anhydrous ammonia to treat FTB and ground beef is consistent with FDA’s definition of a processing aid and exempt from labeling. The web-links below provide additional information on the standard of identity for ground beef, FSIS Directive 7120.1, the Agency’s compliance policy guide on the determination of processing aids, and the IMPS publication.

[http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr\\_2010/janqtr/pdf/9cfr319.15.pdf](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2010/janqtr/pdf/9cfr319.15.pdf)

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W. – Stop 5273  
Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor – Cubicle 161A  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (301) 504-0879  
Fax: (202) 245-4792

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**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Finely Textured Lean Beef (pink slime) - USDA guidelines  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:03:32 PM

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**From:** Chan, Stephanie - OC  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:56 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** FW: Finely Textured Lean Beef (pink slime) - USDA guidelines

[Missed this in the morning-](#)

---

**From:** Gemma Haywood (NTV NY) [mailto:(b) (6)@ntvic.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:44 AM  
**To:** stephanie.chan@usda.gov  
**Subject:** Finely Textured Lean Beef (pink slime) - USDA guidelines

Dear Stephanie,

Many thanks for your help on the phone this morning. As I mentioned, we are working on a news report about the use of 'finely textured lean beef' also known as 'pink slime' in US beef products.

I would like to receive the statements / press releases / data that the USDA has released regarding the use of this product in the food served in US schools.

Could you also confirm whether or not the use of ammonium hydroxide or 'finely textured lean beef' has to be clearly identified on food labels (either in schools, supermarkets or elsewhere)? If a consumer would like to recognize whether or not this ingredient is used in a product, how can they do so?

Nippon Television is Japan's most popular broadcaster.

Best wishes,  
Gemma

**Gemma Haywood**

**Producer**  
**NTV New York Bureau / Nippon Television**

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Suite 303  
New York NY 10022

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Cell: +1 (b) (6)  
Fax: +1 212-265-8495  
Email: (b) (6)@ntvic.com  
Web: [www.ntv.co.jp/zero/](http://www.ntv.co.jp/zero/)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: FLETC Kudos  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:36:00 PM

---

FYI – this came from (b) (6) this morning. Skip over his 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph—it refers to a discussion on “pink slime” that came up last week during lunch between the instructors and a few of the students.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:16 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: The beef industry is fighting back against the "pink Slime" headlines

(b) (6)

You are welcome – Great course! The PT info I requested would be icing on the cake. I hope you can work it out for us.

(b) (6)

Program Auditor

USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Ave, Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5980

(b) (6) (office), (b) (6) (mobile), (402) 344-5104 (Fax)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: The beef industry is fighting back against the "pink Slime" headlines

Hi (b) (6)

Thank you for the information and nice words. I'll let you know if I hear from FLETC regarding the PT inquiry.

Take Care,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) @dhs.gov; (b) (6) @dhs.gov  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** The beef industry is fighting back against the "pink Slime" headlines

Good morning,

I thought this web page might interest the two of you (and (b) (6)) after all the discussion we had last week. I am sure this will be in the headlines for some time to come. It is good to look at things from both sides. Saying this product comes from "waste" trimmings isn't really a fair description since the word waste suggests they are contaminated or inedible neither or which is true. Anyway you can judge for yourselves. This web link is sponsored by the company that makes the product so keep that in mind when you read it.

<http://pinkslimeisamyth.com/>

The week in Artesia was a fantastic experience for me. I sincerely appreciate the information that each of you and your colleagues provided to us. We do similar things as those of you in law enforcement but haven't approached our job with the same sense of personal safety, at least I haven't, that we learned last week. I hope to never have to put any of it into action but am grateful that your training has fine tuned my perception of what could be trouble.

Once again – Thank you!

If possible I am looking for some guidance related to our PT training. I remember many of the techniques we learned but I mostly remember Spencer throwing me around the room. It would be great if there were some sort of diagrams, PowerPoint presentations, or links to videos that we could refer to and refresh our memory. Anything you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

John – I have started to pray for your dad and hope that his physical difficulties improve soon.

(b) (6)

Program Auditor

USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch

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1616 Capitol Ave, Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5980

(b) (6) (office), (b) (6) (mobile), (402) 344-5104 (Fax)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)



From:  
To:

(b) (6) - FSIS

(b) (6)

Cc:  
Subject:  
Date:

FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

FW: Food Safety eNews - March 20, 2012

Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:58:23 AM

If you haven't seen it, a really good article in the Food Safety News is: "In Defense of Food Safety Leadership" which should be titled "In Defense of Pink Slime" The best part of this article is the comment section. Among others be sure to see the comment from Bettina Siegel. (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) - FSIS

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:01 AM

To: FSIS - Food Safety News

Cc: Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC;

(b) (6) - OC; (b) (6) - OC; Halbrook, Brenda - FNS; 'sid@obpa.usda.gov';

(b) (6) @fns.usda.gov'; (b) (6) @obpa.usda.gov'; (b) (6) @OMB.EOP.GOV';

(b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavallee,

Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)

- FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC

Subject: Food Safety eNews - March 20, 2012

## Food Safety News

March 20, 2012

- *Food Safety News* 3/20/12 **Q & A With Elisabeth Hagen, Part I: USDA's New Non-0157 STEC Policy**  
<http://bit.ly/GADQbK>
- *Food Safety News* 3/20/12 **Uninspected Pork Recalled**  
<http://bit.ly/GACuys>
- *Food Safety News* 3/20/12 **Consumers Not Protected with Food Safety Rules 'Stuck in Review'**  
<http://bit.ly/GB9gO6>
- *Food Safety News* 3/17/12 **In Defense of Food Safety Leadership (Opinion)**  
<http://bit.ly/GAMrNA>
- *Boston Daily Magazine* 3/20/12 **Boston Public Schools Shelves Pink Slime**  
<http://bit.ly/GAvQfF>
- *New York Times* 3/19/12 **Links for a Very Early Spring**

<http://nyti.ms/GCtgG8>

- *Marler Blog* 3/17/12 **Putting me out of the beef business**  
<http://bit.ly/GAE6s9>
- *Farm Futures* 3/19/12 **USDA Announces Choices for Beef Products Next School Year**  
<http://bit.ly/GAT6uz>
- *Cattle Network* 3/19/12 **BPI website busts ‘pink slime’ myths**  
<http://bit.ly/GB8apU>
- *The Poultry Site* 3/19/12 **Increased Resources for National Poultry Improvement Plan Requested**  
<http://bit.ly/GAD0tW>

**Additional Articles (subscription):**

- *Food Chemical News* 3/19/12 [USDA offers schools chance to opt out of “pink slime” product](#)

**Note:** You may access the electronic version of Food Safety News any time at <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov>.

You must have Level 2 authentications to access the intranet.

To obtain your certification, please follow the authentication instructions at <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov/fsis/public/static/index.jsp>.

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To obtain your certification, please follow the authentication instructions at <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov/fsis/public/static/index.jsp>.

**Congressional Summary**

March 20, 2012

**Today’s Legislative Schedule**

The Senate will reconvene at 10 a.m., and be in morning business for one hour. Thereafter, the chamber will resume consideration of the small-business capital legislation (H.R. 3606). At 11:30 a.m., the Senate will begin a series of cloture votes in relation to the bill. The chamber will recess subject to the call of the chair at 12:30 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus lunches and the official photograph of the senators.

The House will reconvene at noon to consider one bill under suspension of the rules. The chamber will also consider legislation (H.R. 2087) to remove federal restrictions on certain land in Virginia.

## **Congressional Hearings, Meetings, and Mark-ups**

*None to report*

## **Other News**

On March 21, USDA's Office of the Undersecretary for Food Safety and FSIS will hold a meeting via web conference of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection to discuss the proposed rule on the Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection. The web conference will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. To join this event via the web, visit <http://emsp.intellor.com/enter> and enter the Event ID: 410615.

On March 28, USDA's Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety and FSIS will hold a meeting by teleconference of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods to discuss food safety questions to assist the 2012-2013 ground beef purchase for the School Lunch Program. The teleconference will begin at 2:00 p.m. For more information, contact Karen Thomas-Sharp at (202) 690-6620 or [Karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov).

On March 28, USDA's Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety and FSIS will hold a meeting of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) on positions that will be discussed at the 27th session to be held in Paris, France, April 2-6, 2012, including: Matters Referred to the CCGP; Issues Surrounding Codex Standards Held at Step 8; Mechanism for Examining Economic Impact Statements; Review of the Risk Analysis Policies of Codex Committees; Definition of the Term "Hazard"; Proposed Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Committee; Development of Joint Codex-World Organization for Animal Health Standards; Distribution of Codex Documents and Length and Content of Meeting Reports. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. at 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Whitten Room 107-A, Washington, DC.

Bill Bagley

Public Affairs Specialist

USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service

Congressional and Public Affairs

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

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Desk: (202) 720-0286

bb: (b) (6)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn](#) - FSIS; [Canavan, Jeff](#) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Food Safety eNews - March 21, 2012  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:06:26 AM

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If you read the first article about Elizabeth Hagen, I think OPTION 2 is in agreement with her statements. So the school lunch can know, but not consumers, many additives are not labeled.

(b) (6)

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**From:** Khan, Atiya - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:41 AM  
**To:** FSIS - Food Safety News  
**Cc:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Naessens, Katie - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; (b) (6) - OC; Halbrook, Brenda - FNS; 'sid@obpa.usda.gov'; (b) (6)@fns.usda.gov'; (b) (6)@obpa.usda.gov'; (b) (6); (b) (6)@oc.usda.gov'; (b) (6)@OMB.EOP.GOV'; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Bennett, Keith - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; (b) (6) FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Subject:** Food Safety eNews - March 21, 2012

## **FOOD SAFETY NEWS**

March 21, 2012

- *Food Safety News* 3/21/12 **Q&A with Elisabeth Hagen, Part II: Poultry, 'pink slime' and labeling**  
<http://bit.ly/GEAQ3F>
- *Food Safety News* 3/21/12 **House budget seeks steep spending cuts**  
<http://bit.ly/Glt2YD>
- *The Atlantic* 3/20/12 **The Ag Gag Law: Hiding factory farm abuses from public scrutiny (Opinion)**  
<http://bit.ly/GEB0rS>
- *Scientific American* 3/21/12 **Food safety: A job for 10-year-olds?**  
<http://bit.ly/GDeiit>
- *ABC News* 3/21/12 **Safeway to stop selling 'pink slime' textured beef**  
<http://abcn.ws/GltoON>
- *National Geographic* 3/20/12 **Where's the beef?**

<http://bit.ly/GE57x4>

- *Discovery News* 3/19/12 **Pink slime: Psychology of the ick factor**

<http://bit.ly/GHT3cF>

- *My Fox DC* 3/20/12 **Pink slime beef not found in Anne Arundel County public schools**

<http://bit.ly/GltLc9>

- *17 KGET.com* 3/20/12 **How local schools are opting out from pink slime**

<http://bit.ly/GCy7a7>

- *Western Farm Press* 3/20/12 **Pink slime controversy fueled by mass hysteria**

<http://bit.ly/GDONJo>

- *Lebanon Daily News* 3/20/12 **Public 'slimed' by lack of beef facts (Opinion)**

<http://bit.ly/GD21q3>

- *Huffington Post* 3/20/12 **Let's not give in to beef industry "slimewashing" (Opinion)**

<http://huff.to/GClua2>

#### **Other Articles of Interest** (Paid Subscription Required)

- *Food Chemical News* 3/20/12 **No mention of agriculture or food safety in House GOP budget proposal**

- *Food Chemical News* 3/20/12 **FDA identifies foods for traceability pilot projects**

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<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthWhatIsAccount.html>.

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March 21, 2012

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The House will reconvene at noon to consider one bill under suspension of the rules. The chamber will also begin consideration of legislation (H.R. 5) that would place limits on damages awarded in medical malpractice lawsuits and repeal a panel created by the 2010 health care overhaul law to recommend Medicare cost savings.

### **Congressional Hearings, Meetings, and Mark-ups**

*None to report*

### **Other News**

**Today, USDA's Office of the Undersecretary for Food Safety and FSIS will hold a meeting via web conference of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection to discuss the proposed rule on the Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection. The web conference will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. To join this event via the web, visit <http://emsp.intellor.com/enter> and enter the Event ID: 410615.**

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-----  
Atiya Khan  
Legislative Analyst

Congressional & Public Affairs Office  
FSIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
202-205-3826 (phone); 202-690-0460 (fax)

202-510-5710 (cell)  
[atiya.khan@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:atiya.khan@fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often    **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature    **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

From: [Behney, Jan - FSIS](#)  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: FW: Food Safety eNews - March 8, 2012  
Date: Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:25:23 PM

---

Pink slime ammoniated meat

**Jan T. Behney**

**District Manager**

**USDA,FSIS,FO,DO60**

**701 Market St., 4th Floor, Suite 4100A**

**Mellon Independence Center**

**Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Telephone: 215-430-6301 or 800-637-6681 ext 4306301**

**Fax: 215-597-5009**

**email: [jan.behney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:jan.behney@fsis.usda.gov)**

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**From:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:27 AM  
**To:** FSIS - Food Safety News  
**Cc:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Naessens, Katie - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; (b) (6) - OC; Halbrook, Brenda - FNS; 'sid@obpa.usda.gov'; (b) (6) x@fns.usda.gov'; (b) (6) @obpa.usda.gov'; (b) (6) @OMB.EOP.GOV'; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Subject:** Food Safety eNews - March 8, 2012

## **Food Safety News**

**March 8, 2012**

- **ABC News 3/7/12 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime'**

<http://abcn.ws/x9kRli>

- *Cattle Network* 3/8/12 **House Ag Committee outlines budget priorities**

<http://bit.ly/yIGsLN>

- *Food Safety News* 3/8/12 **Senate Ag Committee Discusses Small Farms and Food Safety**

<http://bit.ly/yuTX8o>

- *Food Safety News* 3/8/12 **Another Clue to E. Coli O104:H4?**

<http://bit.ly/wxrNSt>

- *Meatingplace* 3/8/12 **Cattle not to blame for E. coli O104:H4**

<http://bit.ly/AnGWb8>

- *Feedstuffs* 3/7/12 **PSA expresses support for USDA proposal to modernize poultry inspection**

<http://bit.ly/wDsdeT>

- *NorthCentralPA.com* 3/7/12 **Privatized Meat Inspection Experiment Jeopardizes Food Safety**

<http://bit.ly/ACamM6>

- *Meatingplace* 3/7/12 **NACMPI to hold public meeting on proposed poultry rule**

<http://bit.ly/wMF2k0>

- *Food Safety News* 3/8/12 **Campaign Against BPI's 'Pink Slime'**

<http://bit.ly/zgnki9>

- *Washington Post* 3/8/12 **Beef—er, pink slime—it's what's for school lunch. And I'm okay with it.**

<http://wapo.st/yb0BAG>

- *Washington Post* 3/7/12 **'Pink slime' in school lunches: Government is buying 7 million pounds worth**

<http://wapo.st/xYkvtz>

- *9News.com – CBS Colorado* 3/8/12 **'Pink Slime' eliminated from fast food, going to school lunches**  
<http://on9news.tv/yYiPDQ>
- *Meatingplace* 3/8/12 **Chicken processors hold line on salmonella: study**  
<http://bit.ly/ABuCi3>
- *Associated Press* 3/8/12 **Taiwanese protest US beef import plan**  
<http://bit.ly/yVMzF5>
- *Focus Taiwan news Channel* 3/8/12 **Lawmaker grill officials over new ractopamine policy**  
<http://bit.ly/yQxa7b>
- *TheHorse.com* 3/8/12 **Opposition to Proposed Mo. Horse Processing Plant Arises**  
<http://bit.ly/zbEa47>
- *Wicked Local Harvard* 3/7/12 **National Humane Society honors Mass. legislators**  
<http://bit.ly/xHQoJw>
- *FoodNavigator-USA.com* 3/7/12 **'Infodemiology' on the rise to tackle foodborne illness outbreaks**  
<http://bit.ly/A2u0kx>
- *Las Vegas Review-Journal* 3/8/12 **How food safety knowledge can affect your health**  
<http://bit.ly/xaz65o>
- *CBS DC* 3/7/12 **USDA Updating Twitter Accounts To Be State Specific**  
<http://cbsloc.al/w4nDHN>
- *Federal News Radio* 3/7/12 **USDA uses Twitter to issue urgent food safety alerts**  
<http://bit.ly/wSgt0z>

- *TalkTVworld.com* 3/7/12 **Food Network to Premiere MEAT MEN, 4/9**  
<http://bit.ly/xBYmF>
- *Meatingplace* 3/7/12 **Chicken plant worker in critical condition after accident**  
<http://bit.ly/xWdUCA>
- *WFAA.com – Dallas/Fort Worth* 3/7/12 **Hidden pipe discovered at Dallas slaughterhouse**  
<http://bit.ly/ABiZut>

**Other Articles of Interest** (Paid Subscription Required)

- *Food Chemical News* 3/7/12 **F&WW says sanitation records at HIMP plants don't mirror USDA claims**
- *Wall Street Journal* 3/7/12 **Slaughterhouse Shutdowns Ruffle Local-Food Movement**
- *Food Chemical News* 3/7/12 **Re. Kucinich, long-time GE labeling advocate, loses in primary**

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## **Congressional Summary**

March 8, 2011

### **Today's Legislative Schedule**

The House convenes at 10 a.m. and is expected to pass a measure meant to improve access to the public capital markets, which would theoretically spur job creation for small and medium-size companies. The bill is part of a House GOP effort to create a jobs agenda with broad appeal that puts pressure on Senate Democrats.

The Senate convenes at 9:30 a.m. Members reached an agreement late Wednesday that could pave the way for passage of its surface transportation bill next week. Under the agreement, there could be floor votes on 30 amendments to the package, starting with a series of votes on non-germane amendments Thursday. Meanwhile, House Republicans remain deadlocked over a \$260 billion, five-year reauthorization, with leaders unable to bridge intraparty

divisions over the duration, price tag, and scope of the measure.

### **Congressional Hearings, Meetings, and Mark-ups**

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies (Kingston, R-GA) will hold the following hearing:

- **TODAY : "Budget Hearing - Department of Agriculture - Under Secretary for Food Safety." The hearing will take place at 10:30 a.m. in 2362-A Rayburn House Office Building. Witnesses include: Dr. Elizabeth A. Hagen, USDA's Under Secretary for Food Safety; Alfred V. Almanza, Administrator, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service; and Mr. Michael Young, Budget Officer, USDA.**

The Senate Agriculture Committee (Stabenow, D-MI) will hold the following hearings:

- March 14: "Healthy Food Initiatives, Local Production and Nutrition"
- March 21: "Risk Management and Commodities in the 2012 Farm Bill"

The House Agriculture Committee (Lucas, R-OK) will hold the following meeting:

- March 7: to consider its "Views and Estimates" report that will be forwarded to the House Budget Committee for use in drafting the 2013 concurrent budget resolution. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. in 1300 Longworth.

### **Other News**

*None to report.*

**Cathy Cochran, Public Affairs Specialist**

Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

Office: 202-690-0428, Cell: 202-527-0607

Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov

[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)

[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)

[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Rivera, John - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Food Safety eNews - March 9, 2012  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:08:30 PM

---

FYI. The "pink slime" articles are illuminating.

(b) (6)

(b) (6), M.D., M.P.H.  
Laboratory Director  
USDA-FSIS-OPHS-WL  
620 Central Ave, Bldg 2A  
Alameda, CA 94501-7827  
Ofc: (b) (6)  
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Fax: (510) 814-3090

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

Deaths on 9/11/01: [2977](#)

Annual US Deaths from Food-Borne illness: [3000](#)

## Food Safety IS Homeland Security!

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---

**From:** Khan, Atiya - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:55 AM  
**To:** FSIS - Food Safety News  
**Cc:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Naessens, Katie - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; (b) (6) - OC; Halbrook, Brenda - FNS; (b) (6) @obpa.usda.gov; (b) (6) @fns.usda.gov; (b) (6) @obpa.usda.gov; (b) (6) @oc.usda.gov; (b) (6) @OMB.EOP.GOV; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavalley, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Subject:** Food Safety eNews - March 9, 2012

## FOOD SAFETY NEWS

March 9, 2012

- ABC News 3/8/12 Is pink slime in the beef at your grocery store?

<http://abcn.ws/zUA3kM>

- *ABC News* 3/8/12 **70 percent of ground beef at supermarkets contain 'pink slime'**  
<http://abcn.ws/w3pZ7Q>
- *CBS DC* 3/9/12 **Debate rages on over safety of eating 'pink slime' beef**  
<http://cbsloc.al/yFkH7a>
- *Fox News* 3/8/12 **'Pink slime:' Combo of connective tissue, scraps hidden in your kids' lunch**  
<http://fxn.ws/w7BHLd>
- *CBS News* 3/8/12 **Report: USDA school lunch meat contains "pink slime"**  
<http://bit.ly/yjj6Gs>
- *The Seattle Times* 3/8/12 **Treated beef dubbed 'pink slime' to show up in school lunches**  
<http://bit.ly/yZgEW0>
- *The Sacramento Bee* 3/8/12 **Boneless lean beef trimmings (BLBT) is safe and wholesome beef products made by separating lean beef from fat**  
<http://bit.ly/Aciuhl>
- *Food Safety News* 3/9/12 **House panel debates new poultry inspection rule**  
<http://bit.ly/zft9q4>
- *Center for Science in the Public Interest* 3/8/12 **Antibiotic-resistant bacteria sickened 167, hospitalized 47 in 2011**  
<http://bit.ly/zVbvlf>
- *Food Safety News* 3/9/12 **Salmonella illnesses on decline in Europe**  
<http://bit.ly/zOXLbo>
- *Federal News Radio* 3/8/12 **USDA uses Twitter to issue urgent food safety alerts**  
<http://bit.ly/wSgt0z>  
  
**Other Articles of Interest** (Paid Subscription Required)
- *MeatPoultry.com* 3/8/12 **Meat industry counters boneless lean beef critics**
- *Food Chemical News* 3/9/12 **NACMPI to discuss HIMP**
- *Food Chemical News* 3/9/12 **Salmonella in retail meats increased in 2010, NARMS report shows**

- *Food Chemical News* 3/9/12 **FSIS to conduct 12-month baseline on raw liquid eggs**

\*\*\*\*\*

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<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthWhatIsAccount.html>.

## **Congressional Summary**

March 9, 2012

### **Today's Legislative Schedule**

The House convenes at 11:00 a.m. for pro forma session.

The Senate is not in session.

### **Congressional Hearings, Meetings, and Mark-ups**

The Senate Agriculture Committee (Stabenow, D-MI) will hold the following hearings:

- March 14: "Healthy Food Initiatives, Local Production and Nutrition"
- March 21: "Risk Management and Commodities in the 2012 Farm Bill"

### **Other News**

Yesterday, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies (Kingston, R-GA) held a hearing to discuss the FY 2013 USDA budget request for food safety. USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety, Dr. Elisabeth Hagen testified, and was accompanied by FSIS Administrator, Mr. Al Almanza and USDA Budget Director, Mr. Michael Young. Dr. Hagen and Mr. Almanza's testimonies are posted on the Committee's website at  
<http://appropriations.house.gov/Calendar/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=282487>.

-----  
Atiya Khan  
Legislative Analyst

Congressional & Public Affairs Office  
FSIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
202-205-3826 (phone); 202-690-0460 (fax)

202-510-5710 (cell)  
[atiya.khan@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:atiya.khan@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe:

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Food Safety eNews - Tuesday, March 6, 2012  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:46:20 PM

---

Check out the Huffington Post Article in the news and notes below related to “pink slime” in the school lunch program.

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
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(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 11:17 AM  
**To:** FSIS - Food Safety News  
**Cc:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Naessens, Katie - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; (b) (6) - OC; Halbrook, Brenda - FNS; (b) (6)@obpa.usda.gov; (b) (6)@fns.usda.gov; (b) (6)@obpa.usda.gov; (b) (6)@oc.usda.gov; (b) (6)@OMB.EOP.GOV; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavalley, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Subject:** Food Safety eNews - Tuesday, March 6, 2012

## **FOOD SAFETY NEWS**

March 6, 2012

- *Food Safety News* 3/6/12 **USDA's Merrigan: No One Gets a Pass on Food Safety**  
<http://bit.ly/zFOBHJ>
- *Mashable* 3/6/12 **U.S. Offers Food Safety Alerts on Twitter, State by State**  
<http://on.mash.to/yZ82Ou>
- *Meatingplace* 3/6/12 **FSIS notice on veal and beef fabrication antimicrobial interventions**  
<http://bit.ly/yR7cDU>
- *Huffington Post* 3/5/12 **Pink Slime For school Lunch: Government Buying 7 Million Pounds of Ammonia-Treated Meat for Meals**

<http://huff.to/wu5Cve>

- *Business Insider* 3/5/12 **The USDA Thinks It's OK For Kids To Eat 'Pink Slime' In School Lunches**

<http://read.bi/wAdEmf>

- *Gothamist* 3/5/12 **Government Buying 7 Million Pounds of "Soylent Pink" To Serve In Schools**

<http://bit.ly/zern4a>

- *Fox 28 – Elkhart, IN* 3/5/12 **Syracuse company recalling pizza sticks**

<http://bit.ly/z8d9eY>

- *The Herald News* 3/5/12 **U.S. Dept. of Agriculture launches new food safety feeds**

<http://bit.ly/wprdPq>

- *The Jamestown Sun* 5/6/12 **Twitter Feeds on Food Safety**

<http://bit.ly/wcOAFk>

- *The Hill – Blog* 5/6/12 **Farm Bill necessary for nation's food security (Commentary/Blog)**

<http://bit.ly/xJCGOq>

- *Dallas Observer – Blog* 5/6/12 **Think Last Night's Burger Made You Feel Sick Today? Think Again.**

<http://bit.ly/wee57C>

- *The Pig Site* 5/6/12 **Finland is Now on ASF Alert**

<http://bit.ly/xnKHPx>

\*\*\*\*\*

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<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthWhatIsAccount.html> .

### **Congressional Summary**

March 6, 2012

### **Today's Legislative Schedule**

The House convenes at noon. The Chamber will vote on a bill that would allow the government to impose punitive tariffs on imported goods from state economies such as

China's.

The Senate convenes at 10 a.m. The Chamber will hold a cloture vote on a substitute amendment to the surface transportation bill. The amendment, offered by Majority Leader Reid combines provisions from four committees and incorporates the text of 37 germane amendments on which negotiators have already agreed.

### **Congressional Hearings, Meetings, and Mark-ups**

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies (Kingston, R-GA) will hold the following hearing:

- **March 8: "Budget Hearing - Department of Agriculture - Under Secretary for Food Safety." The hearing will take place at 10:30 a.m. in 2362-A Rayburn House Office Building. Witnesses include: Dr. Elizabeth A. Hagen, USDA's Under Secretary for Food Safety; Alfred V. Almanza, Administrator, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service; and Mr. Michael Young, Budget Officer, USDA.**

The Senate Agriculture Committee (Stabenow, D-MI) will hold the following hearings:

- March 14: "Healthy Food Initiatives, Local Production and Nutrition"
- March 21: "Risk Management and Commodities in the 2012 Farm Bill"

The House Agriculture Committee (Lucas, R-OK) will hold the following meeting:

- March 7: to consider its "Views and Estimates" report that will be forwarded to the House Budget Committee for use in drafting the 2013 concurrent budget resolution. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. in 1300 Longworth.

### **Other News**

*None to report.*

Bill Bagley

Public Affairs Specialist

USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service

Congressional and Public Affairs

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<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

**From:** (b) (6) (DO60) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Food Safety News - Lean Finely Textured Beef (AKA Pink Slime) is safe  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 1:00:55 PM

---

PSU article on LFTB

(b) (6), Investigator  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER  
1001 Liberty Avenue, Suite 745  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
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**From:** Food Safety News [mailto:L-FOOD-SAFETY-NEWS@lists.psu.edu] **On Behalf Of** Martin Bucknavage  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:32 AM  
**To:** L-FOOD-SAFETY-NEWS@LISTS.PSU.EDU  
**Subject:** Food Safety News - Lean Finely Textured Beef (AKA Pink Slime) is safe

It is hard to miss the hysteria around so called 'pink slime', or to be technically correct, lean finely textured beef, or LFTB. LFTB is basically meat protein that is recovered from fat trimmings that would have otherwise been lost. In the process of butchering a cow, fat is trimmed away. In trimming, it is hard to get only fat with no meat protein attached. The LFTB process was developed to separate that meat protein from the fat. Ammonium hydroxide is used as a processing aid to keep microbial levels in control.

The meat protein that is generated is finely ground, so it appears more as a paste than what we would call meat. Is it safe? Like any meat product, as long as it is cooked correctly, it is safe. The ammonium hydroxide is a GRAS (generally recognized as safe) chemical and when used at these very low levels, poses no health risk.

The issue is primarily related to the appearance, and once it was dubbed pink slime, it became difficult for consumers to accept. Because of this, many fast food chains discontinued its use (it was added in a small percentage to give more burger for the dollar.) Meat provided for school systems also buy beef with LFTB as a way to keep the cost of food down. Granted, it is not very appealing to look at. But neither are many other food ingredients when seen being used in food production. And, it is a process that recovers value from the byproducts, instead of wasting it.

Dr. Mills of Penn State Animal Science provides some nice comments regarding LFTB.

<http://live.psu.edu/story/58528>

[http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?  
topic=Questions\\_and\\_Answers\\_about\\_Ammonium\\_Hydroxide\\_Use\\_in\\_Food\\_Production](http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions_and_Answers_about_Ammonium_Hydroxide_Use_in_Food_Production)

Martin Bucknavage  
Senior Food Safety Extension Associate  
Penn State Department of Food Science  
Penn State Extension  
438 Food Science Building  
University Park, PA 16802

(b) (6) [\[REDACTED\]@psu.edu](mailto:[REDACTED]@psu.edu)  
[www.foodsafety.psu.edu](http://www.foodsafety.psu.edu)

An archive of recent messages sent to this list is available at [http://lists.psu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?  
A0=L-FOOD-SAFETY](http://lists.psu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=L-FOOD-SAFETY)

For more information about the Food Safety email list, contact Tom Dimick at [tsd3@psu.edu](mailto:tsd3@psu.edu).



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Food Safety News - March 12, 2012 Cola Carcinogen Debate Bubbles Over  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:44:09 PM

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Hi (b) (6)

It was nice to see you this morning. I hope the rest of your day has gone well. The third article below discusses "pink slime." I think does a pretty good job of explaining what the product is and what some of the controversy is about.

Take Care:

(b) (6)

(b) (6) DVM  
Meat Safety Veterinarian  
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, & Consumer Protection  
Division of Food Safety  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov  
(b) (6)

---

**From:** foodsafetynews@aweber.com [mailto:foodsafetynews@aweber.com] **On Behalf Of** Food Safety News  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 6:04 AM  
**To:** daniel.novitch@wisconsin.gov  
**Subject:** Food Safety News - March 12, 2012 Cola Carcinogen Debate Bubbles Over

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## COLA CARCINOGEN DEBATE BUBBLES OVER

By [Gretchen Goetz](#)

Last week a consumer advocacy group reported that the leading brown sodas contain levels of 4-methylimidazole (4-MI) - an animal carcinogen - high enough to cause cancer in 7 out of 1 million Americans. Days later, soda companies, including Coca-Cola... [Read more >>](#)

[Back to top^](#)

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## HAGEN: TENDERIZED STEAKS SHOULD BE LABELED

By [Helena Bottemiller](#)

Unbeknownst to most consumers, many steaks sold in America are mechanically tenderized, a process that makes meat more tender but can transfer bacteria into the center of the steak. Though the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends consumers cook these non-intact... [Read more >>](#)

[Back to top^](#)

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## WHAT'S WRONG WITH PINK SLIME?

By [Phyllis Entis](#)

It's high in protein. It's low in fat. It's been treated to kill Salmonella and E. coli. It's lab-tested before it is shipped. So what's all the fuss about? Gerald Zirnstein, a former microbiologist with USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, calls the product "pink... [Read more >>](#)

[Back to top^](#)

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## GAO LOOKS AT PRESLAUGHTER INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE E. COLI

By [Helena Bottemiller](#)

Though researchers are familiar with pre-slaughter E. coli interventions such as probiotics, vaccines, certain chemicals and viruses that kill the bacteria, few manufacturers are seeking approval for these technologies. Government could do more to encourage innovation in this area, according... [Read more >>](#)

[Back to top^](#)

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## USDA FINALLY READY TO ADOPT INTERNATIONAL BSE STANDARDS

By [Dan Flynn](#)

More than eight years ago, an adult Holstein cow on a cattle ranch near the edge of Washington state's Yakima Valley became the first-ever diagnosed with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) on U.S. soil. BSE, or Mad Cow Disease, was an international... [Read more >>](#)

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<http://www.aweber.com/z/r/?jAxsnEws7LSsDAzsnAxMTLRGtlzM7MwsLEzM>

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Remove 100% of all "meat paste" and non-food products from school lunches.  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:30:53 PM

---

FYI the woman who started the petition is doing a full media blitz today.

---

**From:** Sarah Ryan [mailto:(b) (6)@change.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:15 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Remove 100% of all "meat paste" and non-food products from school lunches.

I'm not working on this campaign (we're just working with Bettina Seigel- no other pink slime campaigns). But if you send me to appropriate person/email address this petition should be targeting, I can pass it along to this petition creator.

Also, can we chat today? Bettina is going to be going on top tier media shows so it would be great to chat beforehand.

Thanks,  
Sarah

On Tue, Mar 13, 2012 at 5:46 PM, Lavallee, Aaron - OC <[Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov)> wrote:

This is not productive when these folks send this my way – any way to direct this to the appropriate place?

**From:** (b) (6) - Contractor - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - Contractor - FSIS; (b) (6) - Contractor - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) Contractor - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Fwd: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:03:11 AM

---

Shouldn't information like this be going to the Service Desk? Need to streamline information like this. There's too much siloing of information as it relates to issues like this.

(b) (6) (Contractor)  
Lead Systems Engineer, GDIT  
USDA/FSIS/OA/OCIO  
1400 Independence Avenue SW,  
Washington DC 20250-3708  
Room 0137-South Building  
Email: (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov  
Office (b) (6)  
BB: (b) (6)

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the service desk <http://service/footprints>. Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other Personal Data Assistant (PDA) or Personally Identifiable Information (PII) Incident? Immediately contact USDA-FSIS AT 1-877-PII2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, and then contact FSIS Service Desk at 1(800)473-9135.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Contractor - FSIS; (b) (6) - Contractor - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Fwd: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services

FYI.

(b) (6), IT Specialist  
USDA, Food Safety & Inspection Service  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Infrastructure Operations Division  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Room 0153 South Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20250  
(b) (6) (Office)  
(b) (6) (Blackberry)  
202-690-3738 (Fax)

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at: <http://service/footprints>. Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or PDA or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, and then contact the FSIS Service Desk at (800) 473-9135.

---

**From:** Thompson, Charles - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 5:05 PM  
**To:** Rivera, Miguel - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** Re: Fwd: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services

Ok

Charles W. Thompson  
Branch Chief USDA/FSIS/OCIO  
Infrastructure Operations Division (IOD)  
Engineering Branch Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 0149 South Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington DC 20250-3700  
Office: (202) 692-4230  
Mobile: (202) 679-2978

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the help desk  
<http://service/footprintsLost/stolen> laptop, Blackberry or other Personal Data Assistant (PDA) or  
Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) Incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or  
1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, and then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1 (800) 473-9135.

---

**From:** Rivera, Miguel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 03:43 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Charles - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fwd: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services

Charles,  
This was discussed this morning. We may have to help create a rule for the individuals'  
mailbox. Let's see what happens.

Miguel A Rivera  
Chief Technology Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA  
[Miguel.Rivera2@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Miguel.Rivera2@fsis.usda.gov)  
Phone: 202.720.4791 | Fax: 202.720.3984 | Cell: 202.660.2477

"Operational Excellence: Enhancing Productivity with Technology"

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the help desk  
<http://service/footprints> . Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other Personal Data Assistant  
(PDA) or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) Incident? Immediately contact USDA at  
1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, and then contact the FSIS Service Desk  
at 1 (800) 473-9135.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Stevens, Janet - FSIS" <[Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov)>  
**Date:** March 10, 2012 11:15:49 AM EST

To: "(b) (6) - FSIS" <(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>, "Rivera, Miguel - FSIS" <Miguel.Rivera2@fsis.usda.gov>, (b) (6) FSIS" (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>  
Cc: "(b) (6) FSIS" <(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>  
Subject: **ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services**

All,

I was just made aware of a new online petition to ask USDA (meaning FSIS and AMS) to stop using "pink slime" in school lunches. There is the potential for increased website and email volume for our infrastructure. A similar [change.org](http://change.org) petition to Secretary Vilsack and 4 other USDA officials was posted on 3/6/12 and gathered more than 11,000 signatures in 3 days.

The petition to stop the "pink slime" can be found at: [http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink\\_slime/](http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink_slime/). We will likely be asked to set up a rule on some senior executives' Outlook accounts to autoforward to folder. Please be vigilant for VIP requests in regards to the petition as well as potential impacts to the infrastructure. Please escalate any requests or issues to Carl and me immediately throughout the weekend and next week.

Best Regards,  
Janet

Janet B. Stevens, PMP  
Chief Information Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA  
[Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov)  
Phone: 202-205-9950 | Fax: 202-690-3903 | Cell: 202-465-6769

Visit the FSIS Web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

FSIS Employees, visit your intranet site, InsideFSIS: <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov>

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the Service Desk: <http://service/footprints> or call 1-800-473-9135.

Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other personal data assistant or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1-(800) 473-9135.

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: FYI- APS School Talk - APS Food Services Update  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 3:25:13 PM

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**From:** (b) (6) - RD, Washington, DC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 08:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - RD, Washington, DC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** FYI- APS School Talk - APS Food Services Update

Hi guys- just thought- I'd pass along this info. I know a couple of consumer groups are canvassing via list-serves about this issue.

Looks like concerned parents are reaching out to school boards. If we are getting this in Arlington it is bound to turn up across the country. Just an FYI.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@me.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 03:56 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - RD, Washington, DC  
**Subject:** Fwd: APS School Talk - APS Food Services Update

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** SchoolTalk from Arlington Public Schools VA  
<[apsschooltalk@apsva.us](mailto:apsschooltalk@apsva.us)>  
**Date:** March 13, 2012 4:12:16 PM EDT  
**To:** (b) (6)@me.com  
**Subject:** APS School Talk - APS Food Services Update  
**Reply-To:** [apsschooltalk@apsva.us](mailto:apsschooltalk@apsva.us)

Dear APS Parents and Families:

Over the past week, there have been a number of local and national news stories about "pink slime," an additive that is used in some ground beef. Because we have received calls and emails from families about this, our Food Services staff checked with all of the APS vendors and suppliers and we have confirmed that APS cafeterias do not use any beef products that include this additive.

Amy Maclosky, Director  
Food Services Department  
Arlington Public Schools



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Get rid of the "pink slime" in hamburger!!!!!!.....disgusting....deceptive...devi...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:20:40 AM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:21 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Get rid of the "pink slime" in hamburger!!!!!!.....disgusting....deceptive...devi...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@aol.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000085

**Summary:** Get rid of the "pink slime" in hamburger!!!!!!.....disgusting....deceptive...devi...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 07:55 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 07:55 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### **Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

03/09/2012 07:55 PM

Get rid of the "pink slime" in hamburger!!!!.....disgusting....deceptive...devious action by the woman who originally approved its use. She should be prosecuted. Yes, I saw the article on ABC NEWS. I will only buy hamburger from Costco from now on.....since they do not permit it in their meat.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Gotta love the press-it's real food....  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:28:44 AM

---

I got this from Boss lady this morning about the same time that someone mentioned pink slime on the call!

(b) (6) Program Auditor  
USDA-FSIS-ICAD-OPEER-FSAB  
Salisbury Field Office  
212 West Main St.  
Plaza Gallery Building, Suite 302  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
Ph) (b) (6)  
BB) (b) (6) Pin: (b) (6)  
Fax) 410-341-3612

---

**From:** (b) (6) mailto:(b) (6)@fda.hhs.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:14 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Gotta love the press-it's real food....

I was mystified when I came back to FSIS and found this stuff was treated with NH3. Glad to see the market is taking care of this....

## Safeway Drops 'Pink Slime,' Walmart to Offer Consumers Choice

by [Helena Bottemiller](#) | Mar 22, 2012

Responding to widespread consumer concern, the nation's second and third largest grocery chains, Safeway and SuperValu, will stop selling Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB), otherwise known as 'pink slime,' ABC World News reported Wednesday.

Safeway said "considerable consumer concern" led to its decision to drop the product, even though the company and the the U.S. Department of Agriculture insist the product is both safe and wholesome. SuperValu and Food Lion, also a top grocery store, announced they will no longer carry the product, also citing consumer concern.

The nation's largest grocer, Walmart, said its ground beef contains LFTB, but the supermarket giant will soon offer consumers a choice, [according to ABC](#).

ABC World News took credit for the consumer reaction, even though its reporting was in response to The Daily first re-reporting issues that had been brought up by the New York Times in 2009. The iPad paper also pointed to the fact that USDA was gearing up to purchase more of the product for the national school lunch program.

"We found that the filler was added to 70 percent of the ground beef sold in this country. Consumers reacted across America and you took your questions straight to the department of the stores where you shop," said Diane Sawyer Wednesday night on ABC World News, which averages more than 7 million viewers. "Tonight some big supermarket chains are signaling that they heard you loud and clear."

Safeway said Wednesday that it's "committed to providing our customers with the highest-quality products."

"While the USDA and food industry experts agree that lean finely textured beef is safe and wholesome, recent news stories have caused considerable consumer concern about this product. Safeway will no longer purchase ground beef containing lean finely textured beef."

LFTB is essentially low-cost hamburger filler made from leftover trimmings once relegated to pet food and other byproducts. Because trimmings are at risk for E. coli or Salmonella contamination, the company adds a mixture of ammonia and water (ammonium hydroxide) to kill bacteria. The product, which is 90 percent lean, is then mixed in with other, higher fat content ground beef.

Last spring, celebrity chef Jamie Oliver sparked interest in the topic after railing against the product on his ABC reality show. He called the "clever scientific process" shocking and a breach of consumer trust and referred to LFTB as "shit." Fast food giants McDonald's, Taco Bell, and Burger King all dropped LFTB several months later.

'Pink slime' caught fire again this month when Bettina Siegel, a mom and blogger, petitioned USDA to remove the product from school lunches. Since launching her petition at change.org, she has attracted nearly a quarter of a million signatures.

(b) (6)  
Staff Manager  
Office of Emergency Operations  
Office of Crisis Management  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Governors to eat "Pink Slime" Hamburger  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:19:53 PM

---

I thought this pictorial of "pink slime" might be of interest. If they could only see what the mechanically separated chicken and turkey looks like. Now that is pink because they add nitrite and it is like paste or cement before it sets up.

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Governors to eat "Pink Slime" Hamburger

## 'Pink Slime' Defense Rises

### Agriculture Secretary, Farm-State Governors Want Supermarkets to Use Filler

By [BILL TOMSON](#) And [MARK PETERS](#)

It turns out not everyone hates pink slime.

After being pummeled in the media for weeks, the beef additive made from leftover trimmings is getting support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the governors of five states, who argue it has been unfairly labeled and is actually a safe, low-cost way to make ground beef leaner.



Associated Press

Beef containing 'pink slime.'

"This is an unwarranted, unmerited food scare," said Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, who, along with Texas Gov. Rick Perry and representatives of several other states, has vowed to consume the product themselves after touring a plant where it is made on Thursday. "If there was some basis in fact to this, other than somebody's clever naming of it, then you'd say 'no you shouldn't stick your neck out on it.'"

The additive, which has long been used as a cheap filler in hamburger meat without anyone knowing or caring, has become the latest example of a product to fall prey to a social-media feeding frenzy after celebrity chef Jamie Oliver detailed how it is made in a TV special. Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites took it from there. Supermarkets and school districts across the country have been shunning it after mounting public pressure.

Supporters say taking the product out of the U.S. food chain will lead to higher beef prices and fattier hamburger, since it is very low in fat.

"You effectively need to kill 1.5 million more head of cattle in a year to replace the meat that would go off the market from this unwarranted, unmerited food scare," Gov. Branstad said. "That's why we're pushing back on it."

"We have said all along, and have been saying for weeks, this product is safe," USDA chief Tom Vilsack said in a news conference Wednesday.

The USDA chief is dispatching a top federal food safety official, Under Secretary Elisabeth Hagen, Thursday to a facility that produces the additive in South Sioux City, Neb. Several governors also will attend the event as they pressure supermarkets to

return ground beef with the filler to refrigerator cases.

"We're going to consume it," Gov. Branstad said. "We'll do everything we can to set the record straight."

Known in the industry as lean finely textured beef, the additive is made from scraps remaining after cattle are butchered into cuts such as steaks and roasts. Processors remove the fat from trimmings, and in some cases treat the meat for bacteria with ammonium hydroxide. The product is then mixed with ground beef, often making it leaner, according to Beef Products Inc., a major producer.

The filler has been used for nearly two decades and the U.S. Department of Agriculture says it is safe. Still, that hasn't kept supermarket chains such as Kroger Co., Safeway Inc. and Supervalu Inc. from phasing out the additive. The decision caught state and federal officials off guard and led Beef Products to suspend production at plants in Amarillo, Texas; Garden City, Kan.; and Waterloo, Iowa.

Support for the product, particularly in states where the beef filler is produced, helped persuade Midwest supermarket chain Hy-Vee Inc. to back off its original plan to completely phase it out. The chain will now offer ground beef with and without the filler. The decision came after Hy-Vee, which has 235 retail stores, received hundreds of calls both for and against the filler, said Ruth Comer, a spokeswoman for the supermarket chain.

Those who oppose the additive say consumers have already decided on the product.

"This is so clearly a movement that's been driven by consumers," said Willy Ritch, a spokesman for U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree (D., Maine), who is pushing for a ban of the filler in school lunches.

Mr. Vilsack pointed to the difficulty of getting ahead of opposition to a product—even if it is deemed safe by the government—in a world fueled by social media. He also highlighted a disconnect that continues to grow between people and where their food comes from.

"The reality is a very small percentage of America's population produces 85% to 90% of what we consume," Mr. Vilsack said.

This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

**From:** (b) (6) - BLS  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Green Eggs and Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:16:15 PM

---

Now the pink stuff is not just in McDonalds but now they are saying that it is in ground beef at the supermarket. I don't do ground beef either!!!

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Monifa, MomsRising.org [mailto:info@momsrising.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:06 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - BLS  
**Subject:** Green Eggs and Pink Slime

Dear (b) (6)

*Will you eat them here or there?* We all love Sam-I-Am's rhythmic attempt to encourage others to eat strange green food. And when the green eggs are finally eaten, it's hilarious! But moms and dads aren't laughing about feeling trapped in a storybook where it's Uncle Sam who is endorsing a food that we do not want to eat.

And, what do we want to eat less than green eggs? **Pink Slime** – a food additive made from spare beef trimmings that's treated with ammonium hydroxide to kill off E. Coli, salmonella, and other possible bacteria, is in grocery stores, cafeterias, and restaurants across the nation.[1] In fact, one article noted, "ABC cited a former U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist in saying that 70% of supermarket ground beef contained the additive." [2]

**Urge USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide not to buy it!**

[Take Action](#)

Our families deserve to eat high quality foods--and pink slime is most definitely NOT on our list of good eats.

**\*Join us in urging USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least to require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide not to buy it in the stores:** <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3188.550188.vUEayF&t=5>

When you do take action via the above link, you'll send an important message to USDA and FDA that moms and dads are paying close attention to the food our children and families eat.

Why?

Our children are facing increasing health risks related to their diets. As parents, we make every effort to feed them quality, wholesome foods but we can't do that if we don't even know what's in the products we buy. It's time to take pink slime off of the menu and off of grocery store shelves--or at least require it to be listed on food labels so moms and dads can decide what's in the best interest of their families.

With children facing many health problems linked to poor nutrition, it's time to take pink slime off the grocery store shelves and off the menus.

**\*Moms and dads are paying attention! \*Join us in urging USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least to require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide not to buy it in the stores:** <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3188.550188.vUEayF&t=7>



Our families deserve no less. Say NO to pink slime.

What exactly is this "slime"? The slime consists of beef by-products: cow intestines, connective tissue, and other parts that are not used in traditional beef cuts.[3] And, don't forget the ammonia! [4]

**Yuck! Not in a box. Not with a fox. Not in a pool. Not in a store. We do not like it here or there. We do not like it anywhere.** <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3188.550188.vUEayF&t=9>

Fictional Dr. Seuss characters eating green eggs is funny. Our families and children eating pink slime - not so much.

*Please take a moment to sign on--and to forward this email to friends (and post the action link on your Facebook page) so others can sign on too.*

Together we're a powerful force for women and families,

- Monifa, Kristin, Donna, Claire, Sarah, Joan, and the whole MomsRising team

P.S. Please join us on Monday, March 19, 4:15 PM EST/ 1:15 PM PST, for a mom-to-mom Internet radio discussion with head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Lisa P. Jackson!

MomsRising's fearless leader, Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner will moderate the conversation, which will also include asthma specialist, Dr. Sumita Khatri, and Steph's mom, Lydia Rojas. The topic? How the concept of clean air became "controversial" in the middle of a national asthma epidemic as lawmakers bow to special interests and work to dismantle clean air regulations, and how moms and dads can help.

Join the program here: <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1664?akid=3188.550188.vUEayF&t=11>

Please let us know you plan to participate by [RSVPing here](#).

[1] ABC News - <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1672?akid=3188.550188.vUEayF&t=14>

[2] LA Times <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1673?akid=3188.550188.vUEayF&t=16>

[3] USA Today - <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1674?akid=3188.550188.vUEayF&t=18>

[4] Huffington Post- <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1675?akid=3188.550188.vUEayF&t=20>

**Like what we're doing? Donate: We're a bootstrap, low overhead, mom run organization.** Your donations make the work of MomsRising.org possible--and we deeply appreciate your support. Every little bit counts.

---

On Facebook? Become a [Fan](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#).

What should MomsRising tackle next? [Tell us what's on your mind](#).

[You can unsubscribe from this mailing list at any time.](#)

**From:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#); [Thaler, Alice - FSIS](#); [Chen, Vivian - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#); [Rogers, James - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Green Eggs and Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:36:07 PM

---

FYI

NACMCF Office is receiving pink slime communications related to the AMS project.

## **Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science  
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-6600  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:28 PM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Green Eggs and Pink Slime

Yes, but we don't have anything yet. The Department (Office of Communications) is handling it.

Neil Gaffney  
*Press Officer*  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax: 202-690-0460  
[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:26 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Green Eggs and Pink Slime

Hi Neil-

Making you aware that this has come in. Does your office want to reply?

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science  
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-6600  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:22 PM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Green Eggs and Pink Slime

FYI

(b) (6)  
*Advisory Committee Specialist  
USDA, FSIS, OPHS, MD, NACMCF  
Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ground Beef  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:56:16 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:38 AM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Ground Beef

Please see question below.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Marti Peters [mailto:(b) (6)@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 5:39 PM  
To: mphotline.fsis@usda.gov  
Subject: Ground Beef

How safe is pink slime in my ground beef which I buy at Safeway?

Marti Peters  
San Jose, CA

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Happily we consumers seem to be winning the fight against "pink slime" in spite ...  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:35:02 AM

---

This one is similar to the ground chuck e-mail I assigned to you earlier. Could you address this one also?

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:40 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Happily we consumers seem to be winning the fight against "pink slime" in spite ...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@citcom.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120321-000055

Happily we consumers seem to be winning the fight against "pink

**Summary:** slime" in spite ...

**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress

**Product Level 1:** Additives

**Product Level 2:** General

**Date Created:** 03/21/2012 07:31 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/21/2012 07:31 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/21/2012 07:31 PM

Happily we consumers seem to be winning the fight against "pink slime" in spite of the USDA's attempt to keep it a secret by failing to require its inclusion on the product label. At least four major grocery chains are pulling out of the deception due to consumer inquiries and concerns.

My question, is it safe to assume it would never be added to ground chuck as it would definitely be a label violation since "pink slime" can in no way be construed as chuck?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: help with correspondence: Is Pink Slime allowed to be used in \_\_\_\_\_?  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:19:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [FW Message from Internet User - beefalo.msg.msg](#)

---

Hi Gail,

I got (b) (6) out of office.

Would you be able to help me out with this?

Thanks!

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:29 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** help with correspondence: Is Pink Slime allowed to be used in \_\_\_\_\_?

Hi,

"Beefalo" is the product in question. I imagine we will be getting questions about other products, if we haven't already. I've asked around the office and it doesn't sound like it. (b) (6) shared with me the information about whether a product containing LFTB could be labeled "fresh." I wasn't comfortably positive I could use that though.

Do you think it would be appropriate to come up with some standard text for whether it can be used in a product?

Thank you!

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: How can I and others petition to have more information put on our food labeling?...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:52:28 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:34 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: How can I and others petition to have more information put on our food labeling?...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.  
Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120310-000030

**Summary:** How can I and others petition to have more information put on our food labeling?...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/10/2012 07:33 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/10/2012 07:33 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

#### **Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

03/10/2012 07:33 PM

How can I and others petition to have more information put on our food labeling? I would like to know all of the ingredients used during processing. The most troubling example being (pink slime) ammonia treated finely ground lean beef, but also other things. I know some chicken breast are injected with salt brines to make them more plump and tasty, but I would like to know what it is and how much. It is hard to control the amount of sodium and the quality of my families food intake without this type of information.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: How can you justify adding pink slime to beef? Is the "processing agent" Ammoniu...  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:34:35 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:40 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: How can you justify adding pink slime to beef? Is the "processing agent" Ammoniu...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@rocketmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120327-000004

**Summary:** How can you justify adding pink slime to beef? Is the "processing agent" Ammoniu...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/27/2012 08:15 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/27/2012 08:15 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/27/2012 08:15 AM

How can you justify adding pink slime to beef? Is the "processing agent" Ammonium hydroxide removed from the beef before human consumption? Sure, ammonium hydroxide kills pathogens, but it also kills people, it has too many adverse side effects to list . Ammonium hydroxide has an HMIS health hazard rating of 3. Last time I checked, anything above 0 isn't safe for human consumption. As a chemist I work with ammonium hydroxide, and I would NEVER consume it, I wouldn't let my pets consume it either. Please stop this madness.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: How can you not tell us if pink slime is in our food? You are going to lose this...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:54:52 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:02 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: How can you not tell us if pink slime is in our food? You are going to lose this...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@sbcglobal.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120312-000064

**Summary:** How can you not tell us if pink slime is in our food? You are going to lose this...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/12/2012 08:37 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 08:37 PM

**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/12/2012 08:37 PM

How can you not tell us if pink slime is in our food?  
You are going to lose this one!

**From:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha... control number 7196210  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:45:40 PM

---

Can you respond to (b) (6) ?

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

**Submit your questions to...**

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:40 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha... control number 7196210

Can you help me respond to this question?

thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250  
Phone (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha...

Another that is LFTB-related, but a specific request about the definition of "fresh ground":

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Office: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:37 PM

**To:** FSIS

**Subject:** FWD: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

For your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@hotmail.com

**First Name:**

**Last Name:**

**Type:**

**Title:**

#### Reference #120315-000030

**Summary:** How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/15/2012 01:47 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/15/2012 01:47 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/15/2012 01:47 PM

How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA?



[REDACTED]

Can ground beef products that have been adulterated with "Pink Slime" (Lean Finely  
[REDACTED] gally labeled as "Fresh Ground"? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: How much money did the USDA take to approve the use of pink slime in schools?  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 1:26:40 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 11:52 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: How much money did the USDA take to approve the use of pink slime in schools?

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see attached inquiry.  
Thank you,  
AskKaren team

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@gmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120316-000061

**Summary:** How much money did the USDA take to approve the use of pink slime in schools?  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/16/2012 09:19 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/16/2012 09:19 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

#### **Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

03/16/2012 09:19 PM

How much money did the USDA take to approve the use of pink slime in schools?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: I am very concerned about the "pink slime" that is put into our ground beef!! Th...  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:40:37 PM

---

another

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:54 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I am very concerned about the "pink slime" that is put into our ground beef!! Th...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@gmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000040

**Summary:** I am very concerned about the "pink slime" that is put into our ground beef!! Th...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 12:39 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 12:39 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/08/2012 12:39 PM

I am very concerned about the "pink slime" that is put into our ground beef!! The USDA approved this and the grocers do not have to tell us. I want to know what is in my food and I refuse to buy it again until I know what I am purchasing. I will grind it myself until further notice. Please change this policy as soon as possible. This is just plain WRONG that this was started in the first place!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: I am writing an article for my school's newspaper, and I was wondering if you co...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:58:52 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:13 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I am writing an article for my school's newspaper, and I was wondering if you co...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120314-000009

**Summary:** I am writing an article for my school's newspaper, and I was wondering if you co...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/14/2012 08:11 AM

**Last Updated:** 03/14/2012 08:11 AM

**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/14/2012 08:11 AM

I am writing an article for my school's newspaper, and I was wondering if you could give some information on Pink Slime including what it is, how it is made, and what the potential health risks are behind it. Thanks!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: I have heard a lot about pink slime and now that the public is aware it some gro...  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:25:51 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
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(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:27 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I have heard a lot about pink slime and now that the public is aware it some gro...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@comcast.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120322-000057

**Summary:** I have heard a lot about pink slime and now that the public is aware it some gro...  
**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress



**Product Level 1:** Additives

**Product Level 2:** General

**Date Created:** 03/22/2012 07:05 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/22/2012 07:05 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/22/2012 07:05 PM

I have heard a lot about pink slime and now that the public is aware it some grocery chains are pulling the plug on it so I shop at the military commissary and I want to know if the government is contracting companies that use this practice? Rich

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: I just read an article that McDonald's will stop using "pink slime" (beef waste ...  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 11:14:32 AM

---

Another ammonia:

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1162-S  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 9:46 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I just read an article that McDonald's will stop using "pink slime" (beef waste ...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov))

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached,

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com

**First Name:**

**Last Name:**

**Type:**

**Title:**

#### Reference #120131-000053

**Summary:** I just read an article that McDonald's will stop using "pink slime" (beef waste ...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 01/31/2012 06:02 PM

**Last Updated:** 01/31/2012 06:02 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

## First Time Chatting?:

### Discussion Thread

Customer By Web Form

01/31/2012 06:02 PM

I just read an article that McDonald's will stop using "pink slime" (beef waste treated with ammonia) in their burgers. How can the USDA label "pink slime" safe?

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: FW: I was disappointed to find that there is no expert from USDA weighing in on the ...  
Date: Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:35:39 AM

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

From: Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 8:32 AM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FWD: I was disappointed to find that there is no expert from USDA weighing in on the ...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by  
(b) (6) (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

Contact Information

Email Address: (b) (6)@live.com  
First Name:  
Last Name:  
Type:  
Title:

Reference #120310-000023

**Summary:** I was disappointed to find that there is no expert from USDA weighing in on the ...  
**Rule State:** 999.1 Expert Assign Queue  
**Product Level 1:** FSIS Programs  
**Product Level 2:** USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline  
**Date Created:** 03/10/2012 03:37 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/10/2012 03:37 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

Discussion Thread

Customer By Web Form

03/10/2012 03:37 PM

I was disappointed to find that there is no expert from USDA weighing in on the controversy on "pink slime" in hamburger being shipped by USDA to public schools after fast food restaurants and the UK "banned" it while former food safety scientists are claiming it's unsafe. The fact that there is no statement by USDA makes it look like their alarming report is credible. What do I, as a dietitian, tell my friends and patients??  
USDA needs to be front and center when this stuff goes out. Thanks. See article [http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-slime-8221-beef-180500764.html?fb\\_action\\_ids=10150588570452135&fb\\_action\\_types=news.reads&fb\\_source=other\\_multiline&code=AQAW7\\_ARsDd9njmDa\\_WbGAsGNghrblro8VKPc13J8fjSEOrqqOyAs3Bh0Km90IN0wnQoTA4ja6CxZazDb2-JFxxeGPtM5k6JH6S0cG1D0vG26cuCKikMzDdCdevq\\_6A1KRMIC3fOATVAIWixtMSvhoK15SWMAKWS1dyTRnCrHomlQJhkjVaiA7jiEBdDiGvqlg#](http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-slime-8221-beef-180500764.html?fb_action_ids=10150588570452135&fb_action_types=news.reads&fb_source=other_multiline&code=AQAW7_ARsDd9njmDa_WbGAsGNghrblro8VKPc13J8fjSEOrqqOyAs3Bh0Km90IN0wnQoTA4ja6CxZazDb2-JFxxeGPtM5k6JH6S0cG1D0vG26cuCKikMzDdCdevq_6A1KRMIC3fOATVAIWixtMSvhoK15SWMAKWS1dyTRnCrHomlQJhkjVaiA7jiEBdDiGvqlg#) =

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: I would like to know how much longer the USDA is going to allow pink slime to be...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:07:34 AM

---

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 02:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: I would like to know how much longer the USDA is going to allow pink slime to be...

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:57 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I would like to know how much longer the USDA is going to allow pink slime to be...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@charter.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

**Reference #120308-000092**

**Summary:** I would like to know how much longer the USDA is going to allow pink slime to be...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 10:19 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 10:19 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

**Discussion Thread****Customer By Web Form**

03/08/2012 10:19 PM

I would like to know how much longer the USDA is going to allow pink slime to be allowed into our beef in the United States. This should be a health hazard and this is also going into my kids food in the school systems. This should be shameful and this is awful this is being allowed to continue. Is this something that is being looked into? Thank you.  
Jerry Butzin

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: I would like to see labeling for the meat additive popularly known as "pink slim...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:53:02 AM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:13 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I would like to see labeling for the meat additive popularly known as "pink slim..."

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@gmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120312-000017

**Summary:** I would like to see labeling for the meat additive popularly known as "pink slim...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/12/2012 12:30 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 12:30 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### **Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

03/12/2012 12:30 PM

I would like to see labeling for the meat additive popularly known as "pink slime." As a consumer, I feel that I have a right to know what is in the food that I eat and how much additive, such as pink slime, is present.

What are the issues surrounding the labeling of pink slime? Why hasn't this been addressed? Is there any discussion about this topic or committee working on proper labeling for meat? Please advise.

Thank you.



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:54:06 PM

---

I will go ahead and prepare responses to the 3 letters I have. They should be to you tomorrow.  
Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

That is what I would do. It may be an issue that Dan needs to raise to AI or the Undersecretary.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:49 PM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

I know that it can take OA quite a while to decide on an issue. Should we just go ahead and answer the letters that refer to Ground chuck, ground sirloin, etc. with the current policy, saying that we are currently considering the issue? Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:11 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

We are still waiting for a decision from the OA. We'll let you know when we get that feedback.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director

LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA

(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_Fsis/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:10 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

Just checking to see if there has been any decision. Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:04 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

Hopefully today or tomorrow. Dan seemed to want to make a decision quickly.

Sally

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:55 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

Any idea how long it will be before we can talk about the claim? Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:54 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

Well, actually the answer is NO, just saying ground round instead of ground beef does NOT ensure there is no finely textured beef. It just means that any finely textured beef would have to come exclusively from the Round. Same with Angus ground beef, it can contain finely textured beef, but it would all be from angus.

We are currently looking at the possibility of making a negative claim.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:01 PM

**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

Thank you very much. I apologize for send so many this morning. We have received a lot of new inquiries this week.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:59 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

(b) (6)

We are waiting for a response back from Dan on whether to allow such claims on labels. We'll respond when we get a yes or no from him.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director

LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA

(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:58 AM

**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round" , or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

Hello,

Can one of your staff provide information? We now have at least two such inquiries. Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@verizon.net

**First Name:**

**Last Name:**

**Type:**

**Title:**

#### Reference #120322-000066

**Summary:** If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round" , or "ground sirloin",

is it corre...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/22/2012 11:16 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/22/2012 11:16 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/22/2012 11:16 PM

If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round", or "ground sirloin", is it correct to assume there is no " finely texured lean beef" or "pink slime" in the product?  
Thanks.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: If so-called "pink slime" is safe, healthy and nutritious, why is it limited to ...  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 1:16:51 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:31 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: If so-called 'pink slime' is safe, healthy and nutritious, why is it limited to ...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.  
thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@aol.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120315-000050

**Summary:** If so-called 'pink slime' is safe, healthy and nutritious, why is it limited to ...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Product Level 1:** Additives

**Product Level 2:** Ammonium Hydroxide

**Date Created:** 03/15/2012 03:58 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/15/2012 10:30 PM

**Status:** Referred

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/15/2012 03:58 PM

If so-called 'pink slime' is safe, healthy and nutritious, why is it limited to only 15% in a serving of a meat pattie?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: If this "pink slime" is not good enough for Taco Bell and McDonald's customers, ...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:33:07 AM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:23 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: If this "pink slime" is not good enough for Taco Bell and McDonald's customers, ...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000088

**Summary:** If this "pink slime" is not good enough for Taco Bell and McDonald's customers, ...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished



**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 08:35 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 08:35 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

#### **Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

03/09/2012 08:35 PM

If this "pink slime" is not good enough for Taco Bell and McDonald's customers, how can we be feeding it to school children?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: I'm really concerned that you guys let "pink slime" go through....and that large...  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:37:39 PM

---

Could you draft a response?

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 7:23 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I'm really concerned that you guys let "pink slime" go through....and that large...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@aol.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120307-000049

**Summary:** I'm really concerned that you guys let "pink slime" go through....and that large...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/07/2012 06:53 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/07/2012 06:53 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/07/2012 06:53 PM

I'm really concerned that you guys let "pink slime" go through....and that large former undersecretary...very naughty making those extra bucks....why did you do it?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Import to Russia and MX  
**Date:** Saturday, March 17, 2012 7:45:50 AM

---

FYI

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 17, 2012 7:43 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Import to Russia and MX

So here we are, right back where we started. "We in DC think it's ok, unless Russia or Mexico complain, then we throw you under the bus." Maybe someone that has the capability to contact representatives from Russia, Mexico, and Taiwan could consider doing so, rather than throwing me to the dogs after it blows up. After all, it is the choice of the importing government, not the exporting government.

If anyone in HQ would like to see what BLBT actually looks like, rather than reading a label approval, here is a picture.

<http://pinkslimeisamyth.com/2012/03/11/top-7-myths-of-pink-slime/>

(b) (6) DVM

---

**From:** Leonard, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 3:15 PM  
**To:** Lang, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: Import to Russia and MX

-----  
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

(b) (6)  
Frontline Supervisor  
Sioux City, IA

---

**From:** Turner, Rosemary - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 02:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Masood, Khalid - FSIS; Sprouls, Dawn - FSIS; Turner, Rosemary - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Import to Russia and MX

FYI

*Rosemary Turner, DVM, MPH  
Deputy District Manager / Des Moines /  
Phone 515-727-8978 / Fax 515-727-8991*

---

**From:** Seebohm, Scott - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 1:57 PM  
**To:** Turner, Rosemary - FSIS; Masood, Khalid - FSIS  
**Cc:** Sprouls, Dawn - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Import to Russia and MX

Please see below for the collaborative response from OPPD and OIA on the BPI beef product eligibility for Russia and Mexico. This answer should hold unless Russia or Mexico complain.

Scott Seebohm, DVM  
Deputy Director  
Policy Development Division  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Omaha, NE  
(402) 344-5052

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 1:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Seebohm, Scott - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Import to Russia and MX

IPD, PDD, LPDD and Export Programs Staff (OIA) met on 3/8 to discuss the products. They are labeled as chip beef and compressed beef block. It is the BPI product. It was agreed that the product is raw, not ground as far as process categories go but importing countries especially those with restrictions on the import of ground product, such as Mexico and Russia, may not agree.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Seebohm, Scott - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Import to Russia and MX

(b) (6)

Can you pursue this with (b) (6) and (b) (6)

Please be sure to cc Scott/Laura so they know the outcome.

Thanks.

(b) (6)  
International Policy Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
FAX: 202.720.4929

---

**From:** Seebohm, Scott - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Import to Russia and MX

(b) (6)

Can anyone from IPD weigh in on this question?

Scott Seebohm, DVM  
Deputy Director  
Policy Development Division  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Omaha, NE  
(402) 344-5052

---

**From:** Sprouls, Dawn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:04 AM  
**To:** Seebohm, Scott - FSIS; Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Cc:** Masood, Khalid - FSIS; Turner, Rosemary - FSIS; Sprouls, Dawn - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Import to Russia and MX

Is there anything from a policy stand point that we should consider on this particular decision—we will also follow up with OIA but wanted to check with you all first before I get back with them—please let me know if I need to get in touch with someone else in policy or perhaps labeling if need be. Thanks for any assistance.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:00 AM  
**To:** Sprouls, Dawn - FSIS; Masood, Khalid - FSIS; Turner, Rosemary - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Import to Russia and MX

I question this decision. What I don't want is IPP put in position of approving export of products that are by nature ineligible. I don't think OIA personnel are aware of what this product is. The product is under the HACCP category raw non intact and there is no viable use for it other than in raw ground beef. With all of the negative press right now about this product it's something we should tread carefully on.

(b) (6) *DVM*  
Frontline Supervisor  
Sioux City, IA

Blackberry (b) (6)  
Office (b) (6) ext (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:18 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Import to Russia and MX

Raw, not ground?-----from a label review?

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@beefproducts.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:04 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6); (b) (6) - FSIS; Backup (Don't Delete)  
**Subject:** FW: Import to Russia and MX

Dr. (b) (6) – Please see the following from Dr. (b) (6) with our group out of DC. We have communicated with OIA and Dr. (b) (6) has verified and blessed the eligibility status of BLBT for Russia and Mexico. You will also see the sampling / verification concern but we will work through that with the importer. If this enough info for you to execute on 9080-3?

Please let me know if you need any additional information from us. Following is Dr, Shinn's direct contact info is needed.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Dr. (b) (6)  
Export Program Staff Officer  
Office of International Affairs  
U.S.D.A., F.S.I.S  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, 2135-S  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
Office (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@ofwlaw.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:17 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Import to Russia and MX

(b) (6)

I have heard back from FSIS- Office of International Affairs (HQ) in response to our question regarding eligibility of BPI products to Russia and Mexico.

Dr. (b) (6) returned the call from Dr. (b) (6). She indicated that their staff had FSIS-labeling review your information and labels and that they concur your product is raw, **not** ground. Therefore it would be eligible for export to these countries (since neither accept ground). She noted that you already have an EV – which would be necessary.

Dr. (b) (6) did query whether you are already working with an importer. She indicated if/when you have an importer their office would appreciate notification in case additional questions are raised.

She did raise one note that may be relevant. She indicated that in Russia, as part of the Russia verification process that the product is subject to a 25 gram "deep muscle" test for pathogens. She was not concerned about the results, but the procedure based on the nature of your product. She raised this and felt it may warrant discussion with potential importers.

I looked for this in the FSIS export information – I found the relevant section for poultry – I did not find

a similar section for beef. I will try and follow-up.

(b) (6)

1. *Salmonella* testing - Each consignment (product represented on the export certificate) of poultry meat for export to the Russian Federation must be tested for *Salmonella* and comply with Russian requirements.
  - a. *Salmonella* sample - 25 grams collected aseptically from deep muscle tissue
  - b. Sampling frequency - each consignment assembled for export to Russia.



From:  
To:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: FW: Important "LFTB" information from South Dakota Cattlemen's Association  
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:22:35 PM

---

(b) (6) LPN, Administrator  
StoneyBrook Suites Assisted Living  
1906 12th Street South  
Brookings, South Dakota 57006  
(b) (6) Fax (605)692-3376

---

Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 18:20:38 -0600  
Subject: Fwd: Important 'LFTB' information from South Dakota Cattlemen's Association  
From: (b) (6) @gmail.com  
To:

Hello,

I am forwarding this e-mail from the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association due to all the negative publicity since a slanderous "news story" aired recently about a South Dakota company, Beef Products Inc. and its production of Lean Finely Textured Beef aka "pink slime". It contains factual information and I hope you find it useful. Please feel free to forward it to your friends to help stop this media attack on our industry.

Thank You!

(b) (6)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **SDCA - Alysa Robbins** <[communications@sdcattlemen.org](mailto:communications@sdcattlemen.org)>  
Date: Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 1:55 PM  
Subject: Important 'LFTB' information from South Dakota Cattlemen's Association  
To: (b) (6) @gmail.com

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in South Dakota Cattlemen's Association. Don't forget to add [communications@sdcattlemen.org](mailto:communications@sdcattlemen.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.





## Lean Finely Textured Beef aka 'Pink Slime'

Greetings!

If you've watched the news the last couple of weeks, you've heard about Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) or what the media has dubbed "pink slime". Included below, SDCA has compiled talking points and other resources to help you show your support of this important protein source.

Please forward this email to your friends, neighbors and beef retails outlets and encourage them to get the facts before passing judgement on LFTB. You can also use the simple share buttons at the top of this email to link on your facebook or twitter accounts.

**Governors Support Lean Finely Textured Beef**

Govs. Terry Branstad (Iowa); Sam Brownback (Kansas); Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, standing in for South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who is on a trade mission in China; Dave Heineman (Nebraska); and Rick Perry (Texas) have joined forces in the support of LFTB and will be touring BPI's Sioux City Nebraska facility Thursday March 29th.

[Read Press Release](#) from Governor Daugaard's Office

*SDCA sent an email out last night with details of this event.*

National Cattlemen's Beef Association has issued the following talking points;

**National Cattlemen's Beef Association has issued the following talking points;**

**Lean finely textured beef is just that - BEEF**

\* When steaks and roasts are cut, it creates the "trim" that becomes ground beef. The companies supplying lean finely textured beef use a process to remove a lot of the fat from the lean beef in the trim, which is then added to the ground beef as a concentrated, lean source of protein.

\* In some cases, a small, safe amount of ammonia gas or citric acid is used to produce the lean finely textured beef, which like other safety measures along the way, reduces the potential for bacterial contamination.

\* The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service has reviewed and approved this practice as safe. Safety advocates and independent scientists have applauded it as an effective way of ensuring safe beef for consumers.

\* The nutritional profiles of lean finely textured beef is 90% - 95% lean (5%-10% fat) and, just like all beef, is a good or excellent source of 10 essential nutrients including protein, iron, zinc, and B vitamins.

**[www.beefisbeef.com](http://www.beefisbeef.com)**

**Join the Cause on Facebook > "People for the Truth"**

**Unfortunately, myths about this product have ultimately resulted in a domino effect from farm to fork.**

These are the facts:

\* Today, there are 650 people out of work for an indefinite period of time. The affected families, rural economies and all consumers will suffer unless we commit to getting and understanding the facts, rather than buying into the media hype. The U.S. beef supply already is tight due to the smallest cowherd we've had since 1955. Removing available beef like lean finely textured beef from our already tight supply will likely result in higher prices that ultimately get passed along to shoppers.

\* Hundreds of millions of pounds of lean finely textured beef is produced annually - losing this perfectly safe and nutritious source of lean protein may mean we have to rely increasingly on imports to meet growing consumer demand for lean ground beef.

\* An entire community of people - from farm to fork - stand to lose from this current situation, including farm and ranch families who will, at least in the short-term, see a decrease in the value of their cattle. We encourage everyone to learn the facts rather than to jump to conclusions based on media hype - it's the right thing for our families, food supply and local economies.

## What can you do?

Sign the Petition!

To obtain the truth and the facts about Lean Finely Textured Beef

Greetings,

I just signed the following petition addressed to: Everyone in this country that purchases and consumes Ground Beef..

-----

Beef Products, Inc has been dedicated to producing cost effective and SAFE Lean Beef and our character has been grossly misrepresented. The consumers deserve the truth about our product.

-----  
[SIGN THE PETITION](#) *online & forward to contacts.*

[Take the Poll](#)

Take the [bestfoodfacts.org](#) - Food Fight Poll on LFTB

### **Producers Invited to**

### **BPI's Hamburger Feed March 31st**

Sioux City, Nebraska

#### **Economic Impact of LFTB**

\$15 per head on feeders = \$25 million (per herd numbers as of 1/1/2012)

\$25 per head on packers = \$42 million

This equals a possible loss of \$40 per head = \$67 million will be lost  
in South Dakota

average of 2,000 jobs will be lost

\$440 million across the country - will be lost

If a herd of 15,000 (for estimating purposes yields 100% calving rate) will be  
Equal to \$22,000 > possible loss

#### **Consumer Impact**

Earlier in 2012 consumer level beef prices were almost \$5.10 per pound

10.2% above last January

Steak prices were up 9.7% while ground beef was up 10.6%

This was BEFORE the "Pink Slime" smear campaign began

**Whats the safety issue with Ammonia  
Hydroxide Gas in beef compared to other  
food people eat?**

Domestic Blue Cheese 1389 ppm

Beer Cheese 917 ppm  
Peanut butter 489 ppm

Catsup 352 ppm  
Gelatin 342 ppm  
Grapefruit 166 ppm  
Ground Beef 101 ppm

This is information that was part of a 1973 study printed in the The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. [Article](#)

#### On the Positive...

- On Wednesday afternoon, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack and Governor Branstad from Iowa held a joint press conference in Des Moines, Iowa regarding lean finely textured beef. From what we have heard, the Secretary was highly supportive of the safety and quality of lean finely textured beef. Several media outlets were present at the press conference and we are starting to see media stories that the Secretary is re-affirming the safety of this product. According to a Bloomberg story quoting Vilsack, "This product is safe...There's no question about it. We have said that repeatedly. This product is safe. This product contains less fat, and this product historically is less expensive."
- Hyvee reversed its decision from last week to no longer carry beef containing lean finely textured beef, saying that it will now begin purchasing lean finely textured beef products again and give consumers the choice. This decision was based on consumer demands-according to Hyvee's statement, "They've sent us a clear message: They want a choice when it comes to ground beef, and they want to support companies that provide thousands of jobs in our Midwest trade area."
- The Daily Show used their time to try to help clear things up [WATCH](#)



[www.sdcattlemen.org](http://www.sdcattlemen.org)

As always please visit our website and social networking outlets for  
continuing coverage of issues.

[communications@sdcattlemen.org](mailto:communications@sdcattlemen.org)

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to (b) (6) @gmail.com by [communications@sdcattlemen.org](mailto:communications@sdcattlemen.org) |  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

South Dakota Cattlemen's Association | 215 E Prospect Ave | Pierre | SD | 57501

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: In news reports last night (3/15) it was reported that you will give schools the...  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 1:19:37 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 8:12 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: In news reports last night (3/15) it was reported that you will give schools the...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@citcom.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120316-000003

**Summary:** In news reports last night (3/15) it was reported that you will give schools the...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/16/2012 07:19 AM

**Last Updated:** 03/16/2012 07:19 AM



**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### **Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

03/16/2012 07:19 AM

In news reports last night (3/15) it was reported that you will give schools the opportunity to order beef without pink slime. Is that true? Will you be offering the general public that same option? Thanks, R. C. Tresise

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: Is it possible for the USDA to reconsider its decision to allow Lean Beef Trimmi...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:05:55 AM

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 02:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Is it possible for the USDA to reconsider its decision to allow Lean Beef Trimmi...

Another...

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:38 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Is it possible for the USDA to reconsider its decision to allow Lean Beef Trimmi...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

**Reference #120308-000078**

**Summary:** Is it possible for the USDA to reconsider its decision to allow Lean Beef Trimmings...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Product Level 1:** Inspection

**Category Level 1:** Ground Beef

**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 05:09 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 07:37 AM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

**Discussion Thread****Customer By Web Form**

03/08/2012 05:09 PM

Is it possible for the USDA to reconsider its decision to allow Lean Beef Trimmings (Pink Slime) to be added to food for human consumption, especially for the school lunch program? I think it would be much better for the health of our nation.

Thanks,

Royce Gambill

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Is the beef industry ready for consumers to buy only organic? This issue of pink...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:33:49 AM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:25 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Is the beef industry ready for consumers to buy only organic? This issue of pink...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached,

Thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@haywood.edu  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000090

**Summary:** Is the beef industry ready for consumers to buy only organic? This issue of pink...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 08:59 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 08:59 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### **Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

03/09/2012 08:59 PM

Is the beef industry ready for consumers to buy only organic? This issue of pink slime will not disappear. Do your job as advocates for the American public.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: It disgusts me that you allow the meat industry to put pink slime or (ammonium-h...  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 3:21:34 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

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**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:59 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: It disgusts me that you allow the meat industry to put pink slime or (ammonium-h...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

fro your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120319-000060

**Summary:** It disgusts me that you allow the meat industry to put pink slime or (ammonium-h...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/19/2012 08:32 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/19/2012 08:32 PM

**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/19/2012 08:32 PM

It disgusts me that you allow the meat industry to put pink slime or (ammonium-hydroxide) in our hamburger. What is even more disturbing is that you do not require it to be labeled as an ingredient. Why do you not require it to be labeled as a ingredient? Also are there any other chemicals that are allowed in our foods that do not have to be listed as an ingredient?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: ive heard a lot of hype in the news about "pink slime" and im not sure exactly w...  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:39:11 PM

---

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

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**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 5:23 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: ive heard a lot of hype in the news about 'pink slime' and im not sure exactly w...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120329-000061

**Summary:** ive heard a lot of hype in the news about 'pink slime' and im not sure exactly w...

**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress



**Product Level 1:** Additives  
**Product Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/29/2012 03:39 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/29/2012 03:39 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/29/2012 03:39 PM

ive heard a lot of hype in the news about 'pink slime' and im not sure exactly what that is. ive tried to do my own research but there is just so much on it that i cant make sense of it all. i know that when meat is inspected by the fda its inspected as it is.. be it a side of beef or whatever.. but this slime.. what is it?? is it approved by the fda?? is it dangerous to anyone?? ive seen things about it regarding cancer so im now curious. also ive heard on the news that it is now in our meats that we buy at the grociery store. is there a link you can share on it or please inform me on this product??

thank you for having this available.. ive used it before and got wonderful information..

sheri lopez  
CNA, MA

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: I've read that pink slime is being used in supermarkets. How do I determine whic...  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 1:17:08 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:32 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I've read that pink slime is being used in supermarkets. How do I determine whic...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120315-000063

**Summary:** I've read that pink slime is being used in supermarkets. How do I determine whic...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/15/2012 07:00 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/15/2012 07:00 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/15/2012 07:00 PM

I've read that pink slime is being used in supermarkets. How do I determine which meats are free of pink slime so that I can decide what meats to consume?

Thank you

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#); [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 1:28:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [Isabelle\\_PinkSlime.pdf](#)

---

Here is some background information that I have used for previous responses and an old letter that was issued. It is unclear exactly what "pink slime" is but we believe they are referring to finely textured beef which is normally pink in appearance and commonly comes in chips or blocks. A large supplier of finely textured beef does treat theirs with anhydrous ammonia.

Jeff

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 2:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) McKee, Laura; (b) (6) Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn; (b) (6); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution

This one was a little different. Unlike the new inquiries, the old inquiry on pink slime never mentioned ammonia. We weren't sure if they meant ammonia so we focused on purge. I don't think we can use much of the language after all because the new inquiries specifically raise the use of ammonia. Here is a first stab for comment. Let me know what you think.

Jeff

Anhydrous ammonia is listed in FSIS Directive 7120.1 for use to treat ground beef and finely textured beef (FTB). Ground beef has a standard of identity in 9 CFR 319.15(a) and FTB is a meat food product produced from fresh meat trimmings that is subjected to low temperatures ranging from approximately 107° to 109°F to remove excess fat. FTB cannot have more than 30 percent fat unless it is identified as "Lean," e.g., "Lean Finely Textured Beef" whereby the fat content cannot exceed 10 percent. FTB may be used in the formulation of ground beef at up to 20 percent of the meat block as described in the Agriculture Marketing Service's (AMS) Institutional Meat Purchase Specifications (IMPS), Item Number 136.

In this case, FSIS has determined that the approved use of anhydrous ammonia to treat FTB and ground beef is consistent with FDA's definition of a processing aid and exempt from labeling. The web-links below provide additional information on the standard of identity for ground beef, FSIS Directive 7120.1, the Agency's compliance policy guide on the determination of processing aids, and the IMPS publication.

[http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr\\_2010/janqtr/pdf/9cfr319.15.pdf](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2010/janqtr/pdf/9cfr319.15.pdf)

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISDirectives/7120.1.pdf>

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Determination\\_of\\_Processing\\_Aids.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Determination_of_Processing_Aids.pdf)

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELDEV3003281>

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 12:33 PM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff; McKee, Laura; (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution

I think having some standard text that anyone could use would be great! And it wouldn't have to go through clearance so it could be accomplished faster.

(b) (6), Staff Officer

FSIS, OPPD, Policy Development Division

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260

Omaha, Nebraska 68102-5908



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---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 11:17 AM  
**To:** McKee, Laura; (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution

(b) (6)

Yes, we can help. I think Jamie Oliver got the reference to "pink slime" last year when the NY Times ran a series on the use of ammonia to treat FTB and used the term. There were multiple FOIAs, etc. I think posting a Q and A may raise more questions. Do you think we can develop a response that can be used to respond to individual inquiries by staff so we are responding with a similar response instead? I know Shannon was looking for a response too.

Jeff

---

**From:** McKee, Laura  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 12:03 PM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff; (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution

Hi, I got Roz out of office, can one of you help? Thanks!

*Laura Hulsey McKee, DVM*

USDA/FSIS/OPPD

Director, Policy Development Division

Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Ave. Suite 260

Omaha, NE. 68102

Office 402-344-5000

Fax 402-344-5007

---

**From:** McKee, Laura

**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 11:01 AM

**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn

**Cc:** (b) (6); (b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution

We are getting some questions about use of anhydrous ammonia used as a processing aid. I think we need a QA published on it, can you help? (b) (6) or (b) (6) can work with your staff if needed. Thanks!

*Laura Hulsey McKee, DVM*

USDA/FSIS/OPPD

Director, Policy Development Division

Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Ave. Suite 260

Omaha, NE. 68102

Office 402-344-5000

Fax 402-344-5007

---

**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 10:38 AM

**To:** McKee, Laura

**Subject:** Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution

Laura

We have started getting questions regarding “ammonia” and “anhydrous ammonia” that were sparked by a recent TV show. Due to the intricacy of the issue (processing aid, good commercial practice, school lunches, etc) should we be sending the customers to LPDD or simply pointing them towards 7120.1?

<http://abc.go.com/shows/jamie-olivers-food-revolution>

(b) (6), Staff Officer

FSIS, OPPD, Policy Development Division

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260

Omaha, Nebraska 68102-5908



*Consider the environment. Please don't print this e-mail unless you need it.*

**From:** [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You  
**Date:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:19:12 PM

---

I'll email him unless either of you would rather be in touch.

**Cathy Cochran**, *Public Affairs Specialist*  
Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-0428, Cell: 202-527-0607  
[Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)  
[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)  
PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

---

**From:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:11 PM  
**To:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You

I need someone to take care of him – he is blowin up my phone.

I am dealing with pink slime and some pta moms down in Florida. FNS is trying to reinvigorate the pink slime debate.

---

**From:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:09 PM  
**To:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You

Short answer is no.

Do you need a longer answer?

**Cathy Cochran**, *Public Affairs Specialist*  
Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-0428, Cell: 202-527-0607  
[Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)  
[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)  
PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

---

**From:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:07 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You



---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@dowjones.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 3:10 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Subject:** FW: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You

Is this the same thing as the labeling requirements for water and salt pumped into the meat?

---

**From:** USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service [mailto:usfsis@govdelivery.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 2:13 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You

**[Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You](#)**

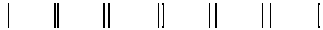
03/01/2012 12:20 PM EST

*New Labels to Provide Consumers With the Information They Need to Make Healthy Food Choices:* Under a new FSIS rule, packages of ground or chopped meat and poultry, such as hamburger or ground turkey, will now feature nutrition facts panels on their labels.

---

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---

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· United States Department of Agriculture · 1400 Independence Ave., S.W. · Washington D.C. 20250 · 800-439-1420

**From:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: LA Times Story  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:38:24 PM

---

FYI

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 01:14 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: LA Times Story

That really makes sense. I talked with BPI and they were perplexed by this one as they say they haven't even tried to sell their products there.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:49 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: LA Times Story

We are checking. However, it is critical for you to know that the EU specifically prohibits the use of any antimicrobial treatments during post-harvest including chlorine. Thus, I would guess that there is a general prohibition of antimicrobials; not a specific prohibition of anhydrous ammonium.

Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (202) 368-5457 -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:57 PM  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: LA Times Story

Do we know if it is true that LFTB is banned in the UK?

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** FW: LA Times Story

According to the article beef trimmings are banned for human consumption in the UK, is that true. And I would appreciate your input on the decision memo when you have a chance.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS

Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 12:10 PM

To: Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS

Subject: LA Times Story

Posted 20 minutes ago

'This is also in their Hot Topics header on each web page under the heading Pink Slime

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-pink-slime-20120309.0.1330346.story>

Michael T. Jarvis

Director

Public Affairs

Agricultural Marketing Service

USDA

202-690-3816

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Labeling Accuracy  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 8:06:57 AM

---

Roz

I never had a chance to talk to you about this man's issue. I spoke to him on the phone and indicated that we would need something in writing from him in order to follow up on the complaint. I'm not sure how to do that exactly, but the issue of course is Lean Finely Textured Beef – the hot topic of the week.

(b) (6)  
USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Patriots Plaza III  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)  
(b) (6) (Main Line)  
(b) (6) (Desk)  
fax: 202-245-4795 or -4796

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:34 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Labeling Accuracy

I was worried about spelling Rosalyn correctly I didn't even see I had misspelled Murphy incorrectly.

Thanks for forwarding.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:13 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Labeling Accuracy

(b) (6)

Yes for me, no for Rosalyn, I'll forward to her.

Roz is out today and I am out tomorrow. I'll talk with her about it on Monday. She may want to assign your question

to a particular staff person.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Patriots Plaza III

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6) (Main Line)

(b) (6) (Desk)

fax: 202-245-4795 or -4796

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; roselyn.muphy-jenkins@fsis.usda.gov  
**Subject:** RE: Labeling Accuracy

Let's see if I spelled the name right this time.

**From:** Tom Collins [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov); roselyn.muphy-jenkins@fsis.usda.gov  
**Subject:** Labeling Accuracy

With all the news about pink slime (I'll call it PS from here on) lately, it made me question which products had it, and which ones didn't. While I trust that PS may be edible, I still think it's gross and would prefer not to eat it.

I recently bought some frozen ground sirloin patties from Kroger (upc: 0 11110 97987 2), thinking that because it said "ground sirloin", and not ground beef, that there wouldn't be any PS in it.

The next day I saw an article quoting Kroger saying that if it's customers wanted to avoid the PS then they needed to buy it's Private Selection brand

(<http://consumerist.com/2012/03/kroger-clarifies-which-of-its-ground-beef-products-are-free-of-pink-slime.html>).

So now I'm wondering about the ground sirloin product I just bought the day before. So I called up Kroger's customer support and they confirmed to me that their Kroger brand ground sirloin may contain PS (or course they call it finely textured beef product).

So then I called the USDA to find out if this is allowed. I was told by them that ground sirloin can only contain meat from the sirloin. And that while it is possible for it to contain PS, the PS would have to come from the sirloin only, and wouldn't be very practical.

I'm hoping you can get to the bottom of this. Please keep me informed with the results if you can.

Thanks  
Tom Collins  
(b) (6)

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: last-minute request for meeting coverage  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:14:27 AM

---

Hi Linda –

I'm covering for (b) (6) during today's OPHS Leadership Team call and wanted to check in to see if there were any items you'd like for me to include on the agenda?

I'm not sure if this effects today's meeting, but tomorrow morning we'll be sending the announcement for the NACMCF meeting on 3/28 regarding the National School Lunch Program. The only reason I bring this up is because there's a possibility the discussion of pink slime could arise.

Thanks!

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:11 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: last-minute request for meeting coverage

Thank you, Bill! I'll send you the info in a sec. Please touch base with Linda to see if she has any special requests/tasks with this assignment. Thanks again

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:09 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: last-minute request for meeting coverage

Absolutely, I haven't got any conflicts during that time and would be happy to cover it.

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:03 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** last-minute request for meeting coverage

Unfortunately, I just received a request for help covering a meeting that is scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to noon today. Would you be free to cover it? It sounds as though it is out of the building. If you are free, I'll send you the information I have.

Patriot Plaza III Room 9-199/Conference Call

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>



**From:** [NACMPI](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Lean finely textured beef aka "Pink Slime" and the Future  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:52:34 AM

---

Another letter for your group.

I have acknowledged receipt.

---

**From:** (b) (6) @gmail.com [mailto:(b) (6) @gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Eric  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:51 PM  
**To:** FSIS Labeling; NACMPI; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; consumer@fda.gov; premarkt@fda.hhs.gov; FDBinfo@cdph.ca.gov  
**Subject:** Lean finely textured beef aka "Pink Slime" and the Future

To whom it may concern:

Today I read that Safeway had decided to stop selling meat that contained "pink slime" which is great news considering that many consumers were going to stop buy their meat because of it.

I hope that you realize that when American's have the real information about what goes into their food they respond in a reasonable and rational way. I am concerned that the government agencies that have been established to protect and inform consumers about what is going into the food supply has become a spokesman for food companies. The response to consumer concern from the USDA has been simply to say "its safe." Whether "pink slim" is safe to ingest or not the fact is that the majority of people would chose not to eat meat that has been treated with ammonia. Yet our government mandated food labels print the euphemism "Lean finely textured beef" which is tells the consumer nothing about the fact that it contains meat treated with ammonia.

In the future it would be appreciated if the FDA and USDA would take a more common sense approach to the names they give processed food by saying what is actually in them.

The general guideline of these agencies should be to inform the public about what is going into their food whether it is ammonia, or GMO or some other product that they public might have concerns about. Whether or not a food product is safe is irrelevant to the fact that giving pink slime the name lean finely textured beef does more to protect the bottom line of large food produces than giving the public the information they need to make informed decisions about the food they purchase.

I am not saying arguing that selling lean finely textured beef should be illegal but that the consumers need to be empowered to make the decision for themselves if they want to buy food products that contain ammonia or other know cleaning chemicals.

Sincerely,

Eric Zandona

(b) (6)

San Francisco, CA 94110

**From:** [Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC](#)  
**To:** [Ramos, Adela - OSEC](#); (b) (6) - OSEC; [Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Lean Finely Textured Beef  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:52:24 AM  
**Attachments:** [LFTB letter to FSIS.docx](#)

---

Please make sure this gets handled through appropriate channels at FSIS and Dept. Thanks

Elisabeth Hagen, M.D.  
Under Secretary, Food Safety  
USDA  
202-720-0350

---

**From:** Schuchart, Cathy [mailto:CSCHUCHART@schoolnutrition.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:52 AM  
**To:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** Lean Finely Textured Beef

Dr. Hagen:

Please find attached a letter from SNA CEO Frank DiPasquale concerning the LFTB issue.

Thank you, Cathy

## **Cathy Schuchart**

Staff Vice President  
Child Nutrition and Policy Center  
School Nutrition Association  
120 Waterfront Street, Suite 300  
National Harbor, MD 20745  
Phone: 301-686-3100  
Fax: 301-686-3115  
[www.schoolnutrition.org](http://www.schoolnutrition.org)

**From:** [norm@nmaonline.org](mailto:norm@nmaonline.org)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Lean Trimmings and Herd on the Hill  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 6:54:08 PM

---

Hey (b) (6)

This week's news letter. I thought you may want to read the little blurb we put in this week on the "pink slime", BPI lean textured beef product we were talking about yesterday. We put a link in here to a fact sheet which Roundman's may want to print out to have on hand in case anyone asks about it.

Norm

*Norm Robertson*  
*Director, Regulatory Issues*  
*National Meat Association*  
*(510)763-1533*  
[norm@nmaonline.org](mailto:norm@nmaonline.org)  
Follow me on Twitter @Meatreghelper

---

**From:** National Meat Assoc. [mailto:[jeremy@nmaonline.org](mailto:jeremy@nmaonline.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:24 PM  
**To:** norm@nmaonline.org  
**Subject:** Lean Trimmings and Herd on the Hill

## NATIONAL MEAT ASSOCIATION

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### Weekly Newsletter

Current Headlines  
March 12, 2012

Lean Trimmings  
CARPENTER ATTENDS BEEF SAFETY SUMMIT  
CCA FUND FOR HARRIS RANCH ARSON  
NAMP/NMA 2012 CENTER OF THE PLATE TRAINING II  
BPI'S BEEF IS BEEF  
PETA RELOCATES  
FPSS CONTROLS LISTERIA  
AMSA PORK 101  
NEW E-VERIFY TOOL FOR EMPLOYEES  
AMS SET ASIDE  
2012 AMS INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

Herd on the Hill  
HACCP PLAN VERIFICATION AND UPKEEP  
APHIS TO MODERNIZE BSE IMPORT REGULATIONS  
OMB CLEARS PORK REPORTING PROGRAM  
NACMCF MEETING ON GROUND BEEF PURCHASES  
NACMPI MEETING ON POULTRY SLAUGHTER INSPECTION

To view this week's newsletter, please click on the link below:

[http://nmaonline.org/pdf/LT3\\_12\\_12.pdf](http://nmaonline.org/pdf/LT3_12_12.pdf)

For a text-only version, please click here:

<http://nmaonline.org/htmlresources/lt-text>

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---

National Meat Association - 1970 Broadway, Ste. 825 - Oakland, CA 94612  
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**From:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [FSIS - OPPD/LPDD](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Lean, Fine Textured Beef (Pink Slime)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:03:06 PM

---

FYI

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director

LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA

(b) (6) Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:59 AM  
**To:** Ames Perry; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6)@vantagefoods.net; (b) (6); (b) (6)@primelabel.com  
**Subject:** RE: Lean, Fine Textured Beef (Pink Slime)

(b) (6)

No, we are not permitting claims at this time.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W. – Stop 5273  
Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor – Cubicle 161A  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (301) 504-0879  
Fax: (202) 245-4792

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**From:** Ames Perry [mailto:(b) (6)@primelabel.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:58 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6)@vantagefoods.net; (b) (6); (b) (6)@primelabel.com

**Subject:** Lean, Fine Textured Beef (Pink Slime)

Dear Labeling Staff,

Are you allowing “No LFTB” claims on labels of ground beef? If so how would it need to be stated? What type of information/documentation would the Establishment need to provide to support this claim?

I appreciate your help in this matter.

Ames Perry

Prime Label Consultants

(b) (6) ext. (b) (6)

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [West, Walinda - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from FMI and request for a meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:06:35 PM

---

FYI only.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)



Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basis/index.html>

---

**From:** Hilary S. Thesmar (FMI) [mailto:(b) (6)@fmi.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:05 PM  
**To:** 'elisabeth.hagen@usda.gov'  
**Cc:** 'aaron.lavallee@usda.gov'; Blake, Carol - FSIS; West, Walinda - FSIS; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) (FMI)  
**Subject:** Letter from FMI and request for a meeting

Dr. Elisabeth Hagen  
Under Secretary for Food Safety  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dear Dr. Hagen,

As the trade association for America's supermarkets and grocery stores, Food Marketing Institute (FMI) seeks to be a resource to our members when issues arise, such as the recent consumer concern regarding lean finely textured beef (LFTB) – characterized in the media as “pink slime.” FMI and our members have come to rely upon U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) timely response in such instances to be a consumer-trusted source of information on matters pertaining to food integrity and safety.

FMI recently hosted a number of conference calls to address consumer questions that members were receiving about LFTB and a recurring theme of these calls was, “Where is USDA on this issue?” For a week, we did not have an answer to that question, with the exception of a very brief media statement that - with all due respect - fell short of addressing the magnitude of consumer concern this topic generated.

For days after the story became a consumer concern, USDA's voice was noticeably missing from this conversation. We wish to report that the agency's silence on this issue left our members scrambling for a credible voice on a rather complex subject, because the voice we had come to trust wasn't speaking.

This slow response has not been FMI's past experience of USDA and we write as concerned friends, to respectfully request a meeting where we can discuss this matter and explore ways we might be of help in your work to expedite agency responses in future instances of consumer questions about food safety, quality or integrity. We were very appreciative of the Secretary's office giving us advance warning of the FNS procurement release and announcement.

Sincerely,

Hilary Thesmar, PhD., R.D.,  
FMI, Vice President for Food Safety

Sue Borra, R.D.  
FMI, Sr. Vice President for Communications

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**From:** [Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** Fw: Letter on Highly Textured Beef Product  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 12:33:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to USDA on Pink Slime 03.16.2012.pdf](#)

---

Another letter... (b) (6) can this be uploaded for response through AMS?

Thanks.

---

**From:** Eufrausino, Jacqueline (Gillibrand) [mailto:Jacqueline\_Eufrausino@gillibrand.senate.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Cc:** Tanner, Kathryn (Gillibrand) <Kathryn\_Tanner@gillibrand.senate.gov>; Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) <Brooke\_Jamison@gillibrand.senate.gov>  
**Subject:** Letter on Highly Textured Beef Product

Hi Ashlee,

Please find attached a letter the Senator is sending to Secretary Vilsack today.

Please let confirm when the letter has been entered into the system and when we might expect a response.

Best,  
Jacqueline

Jacqueline Eufrausino  
Legislative Correspondent  
Office of Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
478 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
[jacqueline\\_eufrausino@gillibrand.senate.gov](mailto:jacqueline_eufrausino@gillibrand.senate.gov)  
[www.gillibrand.senate.gov](http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov)  
Tel: (202) 224-4451  
Fax: (202) 224-1560

**From:** [Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC](#)  
**To:** [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: LFTB - Senate Ag Minority Staff  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:49:22 AM

---

I hope I said we're shooting for 3:00—this email is going viral and I want to make sure we're all on the same page.

**Ashlee Nicole Johnson**

Office of Congressional Relations

U.S. Department of Agriculture

(202) 720-2413

[Ashlee.Johnson@osec.usda.gov](mailto:Ashlee.Johnson@osec.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Subject:** FW: LFTB - Senate Ag Minority Staff

The below says we are on for 2.

---

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:44 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** FW: LFTB - Senate Ag Minority Staff

FYI

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:39 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Lavalley, Aaron - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Cc:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Subject:** LFTB - Senate Ag Minority Staff

Heads up to my communicators – Senate Ag Minority Staff has demanded a call today with USDA (AMS, FNS, FSIS) on the issue of “pink slime” at 2 PM today. Ashlee is coordinating, but wanted to marry the press and congressional folks up. Staff is concerned that we are killing the beef industry. FSIS is reaching out to Phil Defler to see if he can be the FSIS SME for the call.

Chris Gould heads our Congressional staff. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*

Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

You may want to know more about "pink slime".

On their website, you'll find a link to this video "The Facts About Lean Finely Textured Beef", produced by AMI:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDjPjmsKeh8&list=UUahyGGFVpVawZRgFmolyn6g&index=1&feature=plcp>

Finally you can check out this website, created by BPI, for even more information:

<http://pinkslimeisamyth.com>

(b) (6), DVM

Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian

USDA-FSIS-OFO Albany District - Buffalo Circuit

Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

*Changes come like waves in the ocean. We can either ride each wave and have some fun with it, or let it pound us into the sand. Either way, the waves keep coming!*

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: LFTB letter  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:50:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [032712 LFBT Media Report.doc](#)

---

Hi Phil. I wanted you to see (b) (6) email below and the letter that they expect to receive. Thought she's asking AMS to work with FNS and take the lead, I wanted to see if there is something from the FSIS perspective about promoting a particular product or intervention that you would like me to convey to (b) (6)

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)



Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; O'Connor, Tim - FNS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** LFTB letter

We understand this letter is coming our way from the Hill and I would like to get a jump on talking points that can respond to some of the allegations I have highlighted below.

Generally I think the fact sheet OC has prepared this morning (attached) can cover most of the concerns, especially those regarding "educating" the public. However, how best do we respond to the issue of "promoting" a particular product? I would assume there are some statutory, legal and or regulatory concerns there? What about "encouraging" schools to make choices on food safety/nutrition? Can we refer to our upcoming guidance there? Our press release announcing the change also should provide enough tps.

(b) (6)—can your shop take the lead here and work with FNS? I would just like 3-4 talking points, NOT a full letter response.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

As you know, a concerted effort is underway to undermine the public's confidence in the high quality lean textured beef that's produced by companies like Beef Products Incorporated (BPI). Given the tremendous amount of misinformation that was released to the public about lean finely textured beef, it is no surprise that many consumers have begun to question the quality of this product.

In an effort to address some of the concerns that had been raised with the use of lean finely textured beef in the National School Lunch Program, the USDA announced on March 15, 2012, that schools would have the option to remove the meat product from their school lunches. While we believe it is always appropriate for the USDA to give schools choices in how they meet the requirements of the National School Lunch program, we are concerned that the USDA's handling of this situation has left schools, retailers and consumers with the impression that lean finely textured beef is something other than a safe and healthy source of protein, which greatly concerns us.

The USDA plays a unique role in ensuring the safety of our nation's food supply. As such, it must be the arbiter for facts and science in cases such as this. However, we are concerned that the USDA has not done enough to educate the public about lean finely textured beef and promote its use as a safe and healthy food choice.

As you know, lean finely textured beef has been added to ground beef for many years to make the product more lean. Before the LFTB is added to ground beef, it is treated with ammonium hydroxide to kill bacteria, especially E-Coli. In a 2008 Washington Post article, Engineering a Safer Burger, the paper called Beef Products Incorporated (BPI), the nation's largest supplier of LFTB, "a fortress against potentially lethal bacteria." BPI makes lean, high quality 100% beef that meets that highest levels of safety. It is for this very reason that the USDA has included lean finely textured beef in the National School Lunch Program.

We are writing you today to ask that the USDA take steps to educate the public about the benefits of lean finely textured beef and to encourage schools to make their food choices based on nutrition and food safety, not public perception. BPI has been the target of a malicious negative media campaign. We ask that you engage the full force of the USDA and your personal influence to reverse the unjustified tsunami that threatens to take down a great Iowa company.

Sincerely,

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Khan, Atiya - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: link to Seattle story on "pink slime"  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:55:56 AM

---

Atiya...Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

NOTE NEW DIRECT PHONE 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:45 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** link to Seattle story on "pink slime"

Here's the story that ran last night on BPI's beef product (including a link to the video). The video leads with the sensational claims by Jamie Oliver and the "ick" factor of the product. The company doesn't attempt to defend its product, nor is it our role to defend their product. The story includes quotes from a school district official and our quote highlighting our mutual goal of ensuring that the food provided to kids at school is safe. The reporter is confused about what the product actually is (although I tried to walk her generally through the process), but, again, the company apparently did not make any efforts to educate her - at least she knows there was some tie-in with the use of ammonia to improving food safety. Not outstanding, but at least it gets our point across.

[http://www.q13fox.com/news/kcpq-pink-slime-is-not-just-at-mcdonalds-20120201\\_0,7347011.story](http://www.q13fox.com/news/kcpq-pink-slime-is-not-just-at-mcdonalds-20120201_0,7347011.story)

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
- FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: McDonald's Pink Slime: McDonald's to Stop Using "Pink Slime" in Hamburgers - ktla.com (just F Y I)  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:15:19 AM

---

Subject: McDonald's Pink Slime: McDonald's to Stop Using "Pink Slime" in Hamburgers - ktla.com  
<http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-mcdonalds-pink-slime.0.4933956.story>

(b) (6) had 1 call related, yesterday -- let me know if you get calls, chats or e-mails related to this topic,

Thank you,

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff  
Meat and Poultry Hotline  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Tel: (b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) (b) (6) @mt.gov; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) @mt.gov; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) @mt.gov; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) @mt.gov; (b) (6) @mt.gov; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Meat MythCrushers  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:59:04 AM

---

(b) (6) also found this website on "Pink Slime".

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Meat MythCrushers

The American Meat Institute has a website called Meat Myth Crushers. It has info too.

<http://meatmythcrushers.com/myths/myth-ordinary-household-ammonia-is-used-to-make-some-hamburgers.html>

**From:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**To:** [DeJong, Justin - OC](#); [Rowe, Courtney - OC](#); [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); (b) (6) - OC; [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: media query from Japan on beef  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:47:56 AM

---

I sent statement to Nippon TV as well as Prince William County School in Virginia, which says it is getting lots of irate phone calls

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**From:** Tomoko Horie [mailto:(b) (6)@ntvic.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:43 AM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** media query

Hi Mr. Jarvis,

I am a news producer for Japanese TV network, Nippon TV of Japan.  
I am looking for a statement issued by USDA last week on the purchase of Lean Beef Trimmings from BPI company.  
Could you kindly send me that statement?

Thank you very much.  
Tomoko

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Agriculture is defending the use of ammonium-treated beef, dubbed "pink slime" by detractors, in meals destined for U.S. schoolchildren as part of the national school lunch program.

The Internet news source The Daily reported this week that 7 million pounds (3.2 million kg) of the product — beef trimmings treated partly with ammonium hydroxide to fight contamination — would appear in school lunches this spring.

"All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety," the agency said in a statement.

"USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe."

--

\*\*\*\*\*

Tomoko Horie  
Nippon TV, Washington, D.C. Bureau  
(b) (6) [@ntvic.com](#)  
Tel: (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: MEHA Speaker Request  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:21:36 AM

---

Hi Dr. (b) (6)

Do you want to send someone to speak at this conference?

*Thank You,*

(b) (6)

*Supv Resource Management Analyst*

*Minneapolis District*

(b) (6)

*800-843-1974*

*Fax: 612-370-2412*

---

**From:** Jutz, Jessica [mailto:(b) (6)@ci.bloomington.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 8:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** MEHA Speaker Request

Hi (b) (6)

My name is Jessica Jutz and I am a member of the Minnesota Environmental Health Association ([mehaonline.org](http://mehaonline.org)) conference planning committee. We are planning our spring conference which is May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at Rutteger's Bay Lake Lodge in Deerwood, MN. MEHA is an organization made up of registered sanitarians in Minnesota.

We would like someone from USDA to give a presentation about "pink slime" and/or other fillers in food. The sessions are 50 minutes long, including time for questions. The time slots we still have available are Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:35, 1:25, or 3:35. Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 12:10.

Please let me know if someone is available to speak. I know this topic will be of interest and extremely valuable to our members.

Thank you,

Jessica Jutz, REHS  
Environmental Health Specialist  
City of Bloomington  
(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Message from Internet User - beefalo  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:49:45 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: FSIS Webmaster  
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 8:29 AM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - beefalo

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Artistliss@yahoo.com [mailto:(b) (6)@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 6:16 PM  
To: FSIS Webmaster  
Subject: Message from Internet User - beefalo

is beefalo allowed to have lean beef trimming (aka pink slime)added to it when it is ground up?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Message from Internet User - Food Safety  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:51:11 AM

---

Could you draft a response?

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:21 AM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - Food Safety

Please see attached message.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)@yahoo.com [mailto:(b) (6)@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:55 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - Food Safety

I understand that your department is responsible for the safety of food in the USA. That being the case, why do you allow:

1. dairy products from cows that are given antibiotics and hormones
2. beef that is treated with ammonia
3. beef that has pink slime additives
4. genetic engineering of heritage seeds
5. companies like Monsanto to patent seeds
6. companies like Monsanto to put pesticides in seeds
7. companies to be exempt from informing the public if the food has had genetic engineering.
8. artificial sweeteners in so many products knowing they are carcinogenic.
9. foods to be imported from countries that do not abide by the same pesticide restrictions honored in the USA.
10. allow BPA in softgel delivered medications and supplements.

Our people are getting sick and you are not doing your part to protect us and our children. As a citizen of the USA I think USDA management needs to review where your loyalty and responsibility is because from where I sit my tax dollars are not being used as they should be. Please respond.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime and More  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 1:20:26 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 1:15 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime and More

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)@bellsouth.net [mailto:(b) (6)@bellsouth.net]  
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 12:04 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime and More

I saw your spokes person defending Pink Slim on the news recently saying it's just beef. My understanding is that it's treated with some kind of Ammonia. I also heard about Chicken being soaked in high concentrations of Chlorine and then masking it with saline injections. Now I wonder what other terrible things are in my food. Even if only trace amounts remain in my mind it becomes an ingredient and should be on the label so I can decide for myself if I want to consume poison or not. If it's in there for whatever reason it should be on the label. It's only right, Do the right thing please!



**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime is an outrage  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:08:12 AM

---

Dirk --

See below.

Would you like me to provide Linda West with this approved language (below) and have one of her folks handle since it is a Constituent comment/inquiry?

On-the-record response to his questions (feel free to attribute to an FSIS spokesperson):

"USDA would not allow products into commerce or especially into schools if we believed it was unsafe. All USDA beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program and other federal food and nutrition assistance programs must meet very high food safety standards, including stringent testing. Beef supplied by Beef Products, Incorporated for the school lunch program is not exempt from USDA's strict testing requirements."

More specific answers to your questions, on background:

Question:

Does USDA continue to believe this product is safe? Why does USDA permit its use in beef purchased for school foods?

Answer:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration as well as the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) considers ammonium hydroxide as "generally recognized as safe." FSIS reviewed the suitability of Beef Products, Inc.'s (BPI) use of ammonium hydroxide in order to assess its effectiveness in performing the intended technical purpose of use, at the lowest level necessary, and to ensure that the product is not adulterated or misleading to consumers. BPI provided data to both FDA and FSIS to satisfy these concerns regarding its use of ammonium hydroxide.

All USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) beef purchases for the NSLP and other Federal food and nutrition assistance programs meet very high food safety standards, which include stringent pathogen testing. Beef supplied by BPI for the NSLP is not exempt from AMS' strict pathogen testing requirements. Additionally, USDA has a zero tolerance for Salmonella and E. coli O157:H7 in all AMS beef purchases for the NSLP which includes testing both the raw materials and the finished product. Beef that tests positive for these organisms is rejected and is diverted from the Federal purchase program.

In order to ensure that the food provided to schools through the NSLP is safe and healthy, AMS requires the raw material supplier plants develop technical proposals, or written quality management procedures, that address their food safety strategy, including microbiological sampling procedures that address AMS purchase requirements. These technical proposals must be reviewed and approved by AMS before product is ever tested and supplied. In addition, these plants are audited quarterly by AMS for compliance with their documented quality management program. In order to provide a higher level of confidence in the system, AMS requires all finished products to be tested, using samples selected under direct AMS supervision. Importantly, FSIS Inspectors are on duty during the plants approved hours of operation.

Question:

Is USDA doing anything to respond to concerns about the product by schools, the food service industry, the public? If so, what?

Answer:

USDA's food safety focus is on prevention. In fact, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

announced this year that it is establishing a zero tolerance policy for six additional strains of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC). In addition to E. coli O157:H7, which already is prohibited, raw ground beef, its components, and tenderized steaks found to contain the other strains we are declaring adulterants will also be prohibited from sale to consumers. USDA will launch a testing program to detect these dangerous pathogens and prevent them from reaching consumers in March 2012. Additionally, FSIS has announced its intentions to establish a new "test and hold" policy to require facilities to hold product until microbiological testing can determine it is safe to release into commerce. This policy will significantly reduce consumer exposure to unsafe meat products by prohibiting products from being distributed until FSIS test results for dangerous contaminants are known. Having this policy in place would have prevented 44 Class I recalls - one of which involved two illnesses - between 2007 and 2009. Ammonium hydroxide is effective in reducing the presence of harmful bacteria in raw beef, especially E. coli O157:H7, when used appropriately.

Question:

How much of the ground beef purchased by USDA-AMS contains the BPI product?

Answer:

This year, 111,556,000 pounds of ground beef have been contracted for the National School Lunch Program. Of that amount, BPI's product comprises approximately 7 million pounds - or approximately 6.5 percent. At no time will any ground beef finished product consist of more than 15 percent of Lean Fine Textured Beef.

Question:

I understand that USDA-FSIS is developing fact sheets on ammonium hydroxide and other interventions. What is the intended audience of these fact sheets? Why is this being done? For what interventions are they being prepared and how were those selected?

Answer:

FSIS is undertaking an initiative to develop plain language fact sheets about all the new technology applications that FSIS has reviewed and approved. These fact sheets are intended to provide general information about the new technology, including: How it is used in food processing, the approval process, how it works to kill pathogens. FSIS expects to complete the fact sheet when the new technology is approved and post the information to the FSIS webpage. For new technologies already approved, FSIS is in the process of prioritizing development of the fact sheets and expects to have the project completed later this fiscal year. FSIS will post the fact sheets as they are completed, not all at the same time.

Neil Gaffney  
Press Officer  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax: 202-690-0460  
Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:12 AM  
To: Gaffney, Neil - FSIS; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
Cc: Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime is an outrage

Good morning Neil,

We keep track of all questions and answers that come through the NACMCF consumer inquiry mailbox. Can you please provide us with your response to this question when you are finished with it please.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

M. (b) (6), M.S.  
Staff Officer - Biologist  
USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Health Science  
Microbiology Division  
Stop 3777, PP 3, Room 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 690-6364  
E-Mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

"This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately."

-----Original Message-----

From: Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:44 AM  
To: Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime is an outrage

Sure.

Neil Gaffney  
Press Officer  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax: 202-690-0460  
Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>

-----Original Message-----

From: Ransom, Gerri - FSIS

Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 2:27 PM

To: Gaffney, Neil - FSIS

Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS

Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime is an outrage

Hi Neil-

Would your office want to respond to this?

Gerri M. Ransom

Director, Executive Secretariat

USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office: 202-690-6600

Fax: 202-690-6364

E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) verizon.net [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\) verizon.net](mailto:(b) (6) verizon.net)]

Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:32 PM

To: Ransom, Gerri - FSIS

Subject: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime is an outrage

What the hell is going on up there at the USDA? I can't believe what I am seeing in the news about your agency. You approve Pink Slime as food for humans added to hamburger? I have completely lost faith in the USDA, and will not be eating hamburger meat of any kind until this garbage is outlawed. I thought Solyent Green was a movie fiction - now I see we are almost there after all. This is an outrage against the American people, and heads should roll over it. Please forward this email as you wish.

David Burns

Springfield, VA

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Message from Internet User - PINK SLIME!  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:55:32 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:31 AM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - PINK SLIME!

Please see attached message.

Thank you!

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) @yahoo.com [mailto:(b) (6) @yahoo.com]  
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 2:11 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - PINK SLIME!

We are joining the overwhelming requests to have Pink Slime noted on our hamburger packages at the super market. This is a disgrace and outrage! The USDA should be ashamed. Please respond with your reasoning on this matter. Thank you.

**From:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:52:27 PM

---

Here is another pink slime issue. Sorry!

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA

(b) (6) Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:43 AM  
To: Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Can you help me respond to this e-mail?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250  
Phone (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:54 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

One more with a specific issue related to LFTB:

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 7:44 AM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) @rawdonlyers.com [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\) @rawdonlyers.com](mailto:(b) (6) @rawdonlyers.com)]  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:56 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

I have seen your position on this subject, that no extra labelling is required because the so-called Pink Slime is beef and not an additive to the beef.

However, Pink Slime is partially cooked (simmered) and then frozen. I firmly believe I have the right to know when I am buying previously frozen vs. fresh, and cooked vs. uncooked. If the store represents it's ground beef to be fresh (unfrozen) and completely uncooked, then I should be able to safely assume there is no Pink Slime in it. Otherwise it should be labelled PARTIALLY COOKED AND PREVIOUSLY FROZEN. Then I will know the truth as it should be.

Those have always been the rules. Fresh means never frozen, and uncooked means completely uncooked. The USDA should not allow the rules to be broken, otherwise why have them, and why have a USDA.

Thank you,  
Al Sheldon  
Loveland, OH.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Message from Internet User - pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:39:56 PM

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You might want to think about grouping some of these that are similar into a single folder so we can use a campaign-style response (saving you the hassle of creating multiple folders for near-identical incoming messages).

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:59 AM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - pink slime

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) @drhunteroms.com [mailto:(b) (6) @drhunteroms.com]  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:06 AM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - pink slime

Please remove pink slime from our hamburger. Its disgusting and shoul'n'd be used in human consumption. Thank you Gail Thurman



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Message from Internet User - pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:57:51 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
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-----Original Message-----

From: NACMPI  
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:40 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - pink slime

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) @gmail.com [mailto:(b) (6) @gmail.com]  
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 9:35 AM  
To: NACMPI  
Subject: Message from Internet User - pink slime

The USDA approval of "pink slime" ground beef for use in our school children lunches is totally unacceptable. These beef scraps, treated with an unknown amount of ammonia, and which otherwise would be used for dog food, should in no way be approved for human consumption. What is your reasoning behind such a preposterous decision?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:48:55 PM

---

Forgot to copy CCOs...

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Per your request....

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Meat and Poultry Hotline  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 7:44 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) @att.net [mailto:(b) (6) @att.net]

Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 7:29 PM

To: Meat and Poultry Hotline

Subject: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Can you tell me if Kroger (Atlanta metro stores) uses "PINK SLIME" ...They would not give me an answer...We are going to quit eating any kroger beef until we find out...

Thank You,  
Alan Hayes

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Message from Internet User - PINK SLIME  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:59:15 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: FSIS Webmaster  
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:14 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - PINK SLIME

Please see attached message.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) @verizon.net [mailto:(b) (6) @verizon.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:45 PM  
To: FSIS Webmaster  
Subject: Message from Internet User - PINK SLIME

You the USDA, has to do something about the Pink Slime issue. It shouldn't be allowed in any meat product! I highly doubt you are going to eat anything if you know it has pink slime in it or feed it to your children.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Message from Internet User - School Lunches and "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:57:15 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: NACMPI  
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:39 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - School Lunches and "Pink Slime"

-----Original Message-----

From: melanie\_kristin@yahoo.com [[mailto:melanie\\_kristin@yahoo.com](mailto:melanie_kristin@yahoo.com)]  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:14 PM  
To: NACMPI  
Subject: Message from Internet User - School Lunches and "Pink Slime"

<http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-slime-8221-beef-180500764.html>

This email is in reference to the above linked article which speaks of the substance "pink slime" being used as an additive to beef products nationwide.

I would like to personally say that I think that the thought of this is not only disturbing and disgusting, but also absolutely unthinkable. The health and well-being of my child should come before saving a few cents here and there. Is it not too much to ask that quality not be sacrificed for quantity any more in this country? The USDA should be ashamed of themselves if what I read in this article was true. It's sad when a disgusting fast food restaurant who cares nothing more than making money has banned it from their customers and the USDA is happy to slap it on a plate for our nation's children? Wake up! Stop compromising our children's health for money!!!

**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Elliptical Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 11:03:00 AM

---

Any suggestions?

Neil Gaffney  
Press Officer  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O. 202-690-3386; BB 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460  
[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 7:06 AM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

Neil – I guess I should have anticipated an inquiry from Japan about this. Is there anything available that we can send back to Tokyo?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

FSIS/OIA

---

**From:** (b) (6) I [mailto:(b) (6)@fas.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 5:14 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) FAS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) (FAS); Wiggins, Geoffrey (FAS); (b) (6) FAS; (b) (6) (FAS)  
**Subject:** MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

(b) (6) :

The U.S. media stories on the "Pink Slime" concerns in the U.S. have caught the eye of MHLW here and they have contacted us with a series of questions. Namely:

- What kind of the product is "Pink Slime" and how is it different from original ground beef products?
- How the product is manufactured? Is the process different from manufacturing original ground beef products?
- What are specific USDA/FSIS rules and regulations in adding/applying ammonium hydroxide in beef?
- Are there any other additives added in "Pink Slime"?

(b) (6) , our office Food Safety expert has read up on the issue, but couldn't fully understand the relation between pink slime and ammonium hydroxide. He notes:

Based on a quick search of CFR, (b) (5) . "c) In accordance with §184.1(b)(1), the ingredient is used in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practices. The affirmation of this ingredient as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) as a direct human food ingredient is based upon the following current good manufacturing practice conditions of use".  
<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?type=simple;c=ecfr;cc=ecfr;sid=eae685992bcb459f20cf4dca497e8de6;region=DIV1;q1=Ammonium%20hydroxide;rgn=div8;view=text;idno=21;node=21%3A3.0.1.1.14.2.1.31>

Given the sensitivity on this issue, we'd like to get official guidance from FSIS and Washington on what talking points we can say. I'm not sure it's even exported but want to clarify with you first.

Thanks

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Agricultural Attaché  
Office of Agricultural Affairs/FAS  
U.S. Embassy, Tokyo  
Tel (b) (6)  
Fax 03-3589-0793  
(b) (6) [@fas.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fas.usda.gov)

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1614 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 9:10:18 AM

---

I returned a call this morning to this constituent. I asked Neil what he knew and apparently Dirk has some responses to questions – I will check with him.

His specific questions are (and he may write us later today):

Who authorized the use of pink slime? And under what guidelines?

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:00 PM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1614 PROJ=63

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

### **Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1614](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** [01/31/2012 4:45 PM](#)  
**Contact Name:** [Ray Sanderson](#)  
**Caller Type:** [Primary Constituent](#)  
**Contact Phone Number:** [205-290-0717](#)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:** [\(b\) \(6\) @gmail.com](#)  
**Employer/Organization:** [Private Citizen](#)  
**Call Info:** [Entered on 2012-01-31 at 17:00:05 by Michele Simms :](#)

[RE: Pink Slime \(ground beef by product\)](#)  
[Why does USDA allow this substance in the food chain?](#)

[Please call tomorrow a.m.](#)

**Notes:** [Entered on 01/31/2012 at 17:00:04 EST \(GMT-0500\) by Michele Simms:](#)  
[\[ no Notes entered \]](#)

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. ♦ Please open the ticket to

see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. ♦ Update ticket **1614** with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)



**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:06:59 PM

---

Just remembered that we were not calling him back since he did not request a call back (checked with (b) (6) and (b) (6) last Friday to confirm this). I can close out.

---

**From:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:55 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63

Ok that I give Mr. (b) (6) the same response, or are we waiting on something (since Senator Gillibrand was being contacted by the Constituent)?

---

**From:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:16 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63

Did you respond to this one? We were going to talk about this one (which I cc'd to (b) (6) and (b) (6) as an FYI) and the Consultant one but then it came time to publish. I can send the response if you did not handle then.

I saw you responded to Mr. (b) (6) last Friday.

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:06 AM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

### **Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1628](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** [03/08/2012 7:00 PM](#)  
**Contact Name:** [Glenn Sukys](#)  
**Caller Type:** [Primary Constituent](#)  
**Contact Phone Number:** [253-671-2337](#)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:** [\(b\) \(6\)@q.com](#)  
**Employer/Organization:** [consumer](#)

**Call Info:** Entered on 2012-03-09 at 09:06:26 by Nichele Derrickson :

Message was retrieved from voicemail.

Constituent is very concerned about the "pink slime" issues that was reported by ABC news on Wednesday and Thursday this week. He would like USDA to reverse any permission to use "pink slime" in any product. Glenn mentioned he is currently reaching out to Senator Kristen Gillibrand as well.

**Notes:** *Entered on 03/09/2012 at 09:06:25 EST (GMT-0500) by Nichele Derrickson:*  
[ no Notes entered ]

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. ♦ Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. ♦ Update ticket **1628** with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1629 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:56:23 PM

---

FYI – I can call this person back with Dirk’s statement he sent to us this week.

Do you know if OC is taking any kind of lead on these calls? Seems like a big issue since the ABC features this week.

In the past, when there big issues, we used to send them onto OC. Just wondering if we did that anymore.

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:31 PM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1629 PROJ=63

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

### **Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1629](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** [03/09/2012 12:00 PM](#)  
**Contact Name:** [David Fikes](#)  
**Caller Type:** [Primary Constituent](#)  
**Contact Phone Number:** [202-220-0720](#)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:** [\(b\) \(6\)@fmi.org](#)  
**Employer/Organization:** [Food Marketing Institute](#)  
**Call Info:** [Entered on 2012-03-09 at 12:31:29 by Michele Simms :](#)

[David Fikes the Director or Consumer Affairs would like a call today with regards to the Pink Slime issue.](#)

**Notes:** [Entered on 03/09/2012 at 12:31:29 EST \(GMT-0500\) by Michele Simms:](#)  
[\[ no Notes entered \]](#)

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. ♦ Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. ♦ Update ticket [1629](#) with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1630 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:08:07 PM

---

Hi (b) (6)

Would you check the email address for the caller as the emails are coming back as undeliverable to me? I need to send out a response. Thanks. Peggy

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1630 PROJ=63

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

**Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** 1630  
**Subject of Call:** Miscellaneous  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** 03/12/2012 10:55 AM  
**Contact Name:** Peter Candland  
**Caller Type:** Primary Constituent  
**Contact Phone Number:** 703-792-6195  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:** (b) (6) @pwcs.edu  
**Employer/Organization:** Prince William County Public Schools  
**Call Info:** Entered on 2012-03-12 at 10:58:38 by Nichele Derrickson :

RE: Requesting a statement from USDA concerning the "pink slime" in school lunches.

Many constituents are calling and they would like to have a statement to provided these callers.

Email address: (b) (6) @pwcs.edu

**Notes:** *Entered on 03/12/2012 at 10:58:37 EDT (GMT-0400) by Nichele Derrickson:*  
[ no Notes entered ]

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. ♦ Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. ♦ Update ticket **1630** with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1634 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:25:26 PM

---

[Can we refer individuals to the USDA website for the release on this issue?](#)

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:10 PM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1634 PROJ=63

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

### **Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1634](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** [03/15/2012 4:10 PM](#)  
**Contact Name:** [Judise Williams](#)  
**Caller Type:** [Primary Constituent](#)  
**Contact Phone Number:** [\(b\) \(6\)](#)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:** [n/a](#)  
**Employer/Organization:** [consumer](#)  
**Call Info:** [Entered on 2012-03-15 at 16:10:20 by Nichele Derrickson :](#)

[Re: Would like to speak with some one concerning "pink slime" added in School Lunches. Judise is a concerned parent and would like to know why is this added in meat. Why was this approved by USDA?](#)

**Notes:** [Entered on 03/15/2012 at 16:10:20 EDT \(GMT-0400\) by Nichele Derrickson:](#)  
[\[ no Notes entered \]](#)

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. ♦ Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. ♦ Update ticket [1634](#) with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1634 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:39:40 AM

---

Is this statement still what we are telling callers? I believe you were suggesting to be the caller on these calls last week. Or should I just respond with the statement? This one is still hanging....

All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:10 PM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1634 PROJ=63

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

#### **Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1634](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** [03/15/2012 4:10 PM](#)  
**Contact Name:** [Judise Williams](#)  
**Caller Type:** [Primary Constituent](#)  
**Contact Phone Number:** (b) (6)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:** [n/a](#)  
**Employer/Organization:** [consumer](#)  
**Call Info:** [Entered on 2012-03-15 at 16:10:20 by Nichele Derrickson :](#)

[Re: Would like to speak with some one concerning "pink slime" added in School Lunches. Judise is a concerned parent and would like to know why is this added in meat. Why was this approved by USDA?](#)

**Notes:** [Entered on 03/15/2012 at 16:10:20 EDT \(GMT-0400\) by Nichele Derrickson:](#)  
[\[ no Notes entered \]](#)

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. ♦ Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. ♦ Update ticket **1634** with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)



**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: more info  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:37:51 PM

---

Guys do either of you have a contact at BPI or AMI that can get us a picture of what lftb actually looks like? WaPo is going to run a story saying that the pink slime thing is false.

---

**From:** Elizabeth Flock [mailto:Elizabeth.Flock@washingtonpost.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:36 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: more info

Hi Aaron. These links don't address the misleading photo of pink slime, which is actually showing Advanced Meat Recovery in chicken. Do you have anything that addresses this?

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC [mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:29 PM  
**To:** Elizabeth Flock  
**Subject:** more info

Elizabeth – this should help. The folks at AMI of Nat. Meat assoc should have a picture. But let me know if I can help dig up anything else.

This more in-depth story helps explain what this is

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/beef-products-inc-gets-support-from-food-safety-leaders/>

<http://www.meatami.com/ht/a/GetDocumentAction/i/76184>

Some of these external sources may be able to provide more info.

Dr. (b) (6) (formally of Jack in the Box - (b) (6))  
Dr. (b) (6) (Iowa State University) - (b) (6)  
(b) (6) (STOP Foodborn Illness) - (b) (6)  
(b) (6) (formally of National Consumer League) - (b) (6)  
Dr. (b) (6) (Kansas State University) - (b) (6)  
Dr. (b) (6) (Texas A&M University) - (b) (6)  
(b) (6) (National Meat Association) - (b) (6)  
(b) (6) (Food Safety Lawyer) - (b) (6)

**Aaron Lavallee**

Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Office Direct: 202.720.6959

Cell: (b) (6)

[aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov)

<http://www.usda.gov>

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**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: MSC  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:09:33 PM

---

One comment in favor of lftb.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) @aol.com [mailto:(b) (6) @aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 05:00 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) @yvbeef.com <(b) (6) @yvbeef.com>  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; "FSIS. labeling"@fsis.usda.gov <"FSIS. labeling"@fsis.usda.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: MSC

Yes, Gary, innovation is over in the meat industry, just throw it all to the dog, not chemical sound but the traditional (pink slime thinking) organoliptical messes, not as holsum low fat flesh to save energy and incease food for the starving or poor or nutritiously deprived but just for the big dogs, big harry drolling dog.

Your response is important. CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail communication, and any documents, files or e-mail messages attached to it, may contain confidential information that is legally privileged. Do not read this document if you are not the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of any of the information contained in or attached to this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you have received this document in error, please immediately notify us at rae84065@aol.com or by telephone at 559-217-5071. If you are unable to forward this document to the intended recipient, destroy the document and its attachments without reading or saving in any manner. Thank you.

(b) (6) Rae McFarland Senior Wellness, Science and Professional Food Technologist 1-559-217-5071 [www.avispattech.com](http://www.avispattech.com)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gary McFarland <(b) (6) @yvbeef.com>  
**To:** (b) (6) <(b) (6) @aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tue, Mar 27, 2012 2:33 pm  
**Subject:** MSC

Rae,  
Someone was commenting on FTB today and mentioned wait until they start on MSC.  
"They will shut down the frankfurter business".  
FYI,  
Gary  
Gary McFarland  
Sales Manager

[REDACTED] Beef Packing Co., Inc.

Merced Ca, 95341

[REDACTED] (b) (6)

Fax: 209-388-1625

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods to Hold Meeting on School Lunch Program Purchases  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:51:44 PM

---

This might be worth attending for the sheer entertainment value. Pink slime, anyone?

---

**From:** USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service [mailto:usfsis@govdelivery.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** Mamber, Steve - FSIS  
**Subject:** National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods to Hold Meeting on School Lunch Program Purchases

## [National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods to Hold Meeting on School Lunch Program Purchases](#)

03/14/2012 12:17 PM EDT

March 28, 2012 public meeting (via conference call) will address food safety issues posed by subcommittee.

---



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---

This email was sent to (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov using GovDelivery, on behalf of the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service · United States Department of Agriculture · 1400 Independence Ave., S.W. · Washington D.C. 20250 · 800-439-1420



**From:** (b) (6) - OC  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: New Incident from AsktheExpert  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:13:07 PM

---

The following inquiry has been forwarded to you by:  
OC (b) (6) (b) (6) @oc.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:23 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Subject:** FW: New Incident from AsktheExpert

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:22:57 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Subject:** Fw: New Incident from AsktheExpert

---

Can we discuss? I am not the poc.

---

**From:** Agricultural Reference  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 09:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: New Incident from AsktheExpert

---

Please send emails on pink slime issues to (b) (6) @oc.usda.gov, with a cc: to (b) (6)

---

**From:** ASK USDA [mailto:askusda@mailwc.custhelp.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:14 AM  
**To:** Agricultural Reference  
**Subject:** New Incident from AsktheExpert

---

The following question has been received:

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @sbcglobal.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120315-000009

**Summary:** What is pink slime and are grocery stores and restaurants obligated to tell you ...

**Topic Level 1:** Food

**Subtopic Level 2:** Food and Nutrition Information Center

**Date Created:** 03/15/2012 10:13 AM

**Last Updated:** 03/15/2012 10:13 AM

**Status:** Referred

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/15/2012 10:13 AM

What is pink slime and are grocery stores and restaurants obligated to tell you if their ground beef has this in it?

**From:** (b) (6) - OES  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: New Incident from AsktheExpert  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:46:37 AM

---

Good Morning:

Scroll to the bottom of this e-mail...please review the message below and let me know if you agree that this should be sent to FDA or should it be assigned to FSIS.

Thanks

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:10 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OES; (b) (6) - OES; (b) (6) - OES  
**Subject:** FW: New Incident from AsktheExpert

Not related to ARS research. I believe this should go to FDA. Thanks.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** ASK USDA [mailto:askusda@mailwc.custhelp.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:01 PM  
**To:** ARS  
**Subject:** New Incident from AsktheExpert

The following question has been received:

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @aol.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120321-000048

**Summary:** I want to know what we as consumers and Americans cab do to get pink slime banne...  
**Topic Level 1:** Food  
**Subtopic Level 2:** Food Safety Information Center  
**Date Created:** 03/21/2012 04:00 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/21/2012 04:00 PM  
**Status:** Referred  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**



**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

**Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

03/21/2012 04:00 PM

I want to know what we as consumers and Americans cab do to get pink slime banned and to have the woman who approved it investigated and charged? I am incensed at the FDA over this entire fiasco.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: New Incident from AsktheExpert  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:41:57 PM

---

FDA referral:

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:57 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: New Incident from AsktheExpert

The following inquiry has been forwarded to you by:  
OC (b) (6) [@oc.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@oc.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Subject:** FW: New Incident from AsktheExpert

---

**From:** Agricultural Reference  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:06:32 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Subject:** FW: New Incident from AsktheExpert

FYI

We can't comment on this. I would suggest forwarding it to Wayne Moore (part of USDA's Office of Communications, (b) (6) [@oc.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@oc.usda.gov)) for them to decide whether to comment on it.

---

**From:** Agricultural Reference  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:03 AM

To: (b) (6) @wowway.com  
Subject: RE: New Incident from AsktheExpert

Dear Requester,

Thank you for contacting the USDA. Your question has been forwarded to a reference librarian for research and response. You can expect an answer within a few business days.

Sincerely,

Reference Research Services  
National Agricultural Library  
10301 Baltimore Ave.  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301-504-5755  
[agref@ars.usda.gov](mailto:agref@ars.usda.gov)

---

From: ASK USDA [<mailto:askusda@mailwc.custhelp.com>]  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 5:16 AM  
To: Agricultural Reference  
Subject: New Incident from AsktheExpert

The following question has been received:

#### Contact Information

Email Address: (b) (6) @wowway.com  
First Name:  
Last Name:  
Type:  
Title:

#### Reference #120309-000006

Summary: Why go after Raw Milk, which a lot of us have been using for ever, and still all...  
Topic Level 1: Food  
Subtopic Level 2: Food and Nutrition Information Center  
Date Created: 03/09/2012 05:16 AM  
Last Updated: 03/09/2012 05:16 AM  
Status: Referred  
Assigned:  
Country:  
State:  
First Time Chatting?:

#### Discussion Thread

Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 05:16 AM

[REDACTED]aw Milk, which a lot of us have been using for ever, and still allowed pink  
slime to be sold as meat to unknowing consumers.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: New Task Assigned  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 10:17:32 AM

---

Bryce just assigned this to me. It is an oes 30 on pink slime.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250  
Phone (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)@usda.gov [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@usda.gov)]  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:04 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: New Task Assigned

You have new tasks in your inbox.

Control Number: 7190678  
Task: Draft Response  
Due Date: 03/22/2012

You can access the application at the following url:  
<http://cms.ess.usda.gov/edm>

This is an auto-generated message.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: NewsMakers PM: The LFTB story's newest developments  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 3:23:56 PM

---

FYI there is a link to a video regarding pink slime when you open the LFTB story's newest developments link below. It's only about 5 minutes and gives a brief description of the process involved.

---

**From:** bounce@newsletters.meatingplace.com [mailto:bounce@newsletters.meatingplace.com] **On Behalf Of** Meatingplace Editorial  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:08 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** NewsMakers PM: The LFTB story's newest developments

**Wednesday, March 21, 2012**  
**NewsMakers PM from meatingplace.com**

The **NEWGENERATION of Retail Bacon Packaging** technology is here! The Multivac R595 delivers PROVEN high pressure sealing to stop leakers, and handles L-boards, 'Tux' Cartons and Easy Open features on ONE machine! Ask about our **INGENIOUS** device for automatic handling of Trailing L-Boards. Up to 120 Packages per minute! **Click Here** for details.

**This afternoon's headlines from [www.meatingplace.com](http://www.meatingplace.com)**

[The LFTB story's newest developments](#)

[The right amount of red meat can be good-mood food](#)

[Russia ramps up poultry production](#)

[Cheesecake Factory refreshes menu](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

**\*\*NOTE:** This email account is not monitored, so do not reply to this email. We have provided the links below for your convenience:

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**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Tarrant, Alexandra - FSIS](#); [Tarr, Adam - FSIS](#); [Khan, Atiya - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Notes from Today's OPACE Managers Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 15, 2012 1:11:50 PM

---

FYI.

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460

[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at** <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2012 1:10 PM

**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Cochran, Catherine - FSIS; McIntire, Richard - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** Notes from Today's OPACE Managers Meeting

Here's a stream-of-consciousness summary of topics discussed today at the OPACE Managers Meeting:

- FSIS has received a petition (not sure from whom) to have poultry slaughtered under religious (Halal) guidelines labeled as such. This relates to the Butterball turkey inquiries that cropped up prior to Thanksgiving last year.
- FSIS has received a request from an establishment in Roswell, New Mexico, for the slaughter/inspection of horse meat.
- BPI and its ammoniated beef/pink slime product may be the focus of a letter from the FDA. Burger King has begun using the product again because customers have



complained about the alternative (untexturized fine lean beef).

- OC and OSEC have asked OPACE to reach out and decline to have Dan Engeljohn participate in a Meatingplace webinar on E. coli vaccinations slated for the spring – I will do so today, and also let Dan E. know of OC/OSEC's decision. APHIS' John Clifford may take part in the Meatingplace webinar instead.
- Carol and Alicemary Leach will be meeting with Phil Derfler shortly to discuss a *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* FOIA request to link ARS' NARMS data to FSIS' salmonella data derived from HACCP sampling by having FSIS insert a unique identifier field in its data.

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

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[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

**From:** [Waskevich, Charles - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Theodule, Jonathan - FSIS](#); [Farrell, David - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Notice of Investigation 12-0040  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:15:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [ICAD-12-0040 attachment.htm](#)  
[Invest 12-0040.pdf](#)

---

*Charles F. Waskevich, Jr.*, Branch Chief

Labor and Employee Relations Division  
Employee Relations Branch  
Office of Management  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Mail Stop 3707 PP3, Room 8-247A  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-3700

Phone (301) 504-9318  
Fax (202) 245-4798  
[Charles.Waskevich@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Charles.Waskevich@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:11 AM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Waskevich, Charles - FSIS; Fayne, Vincent - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Notice of Investigation 12-0040

Good morning,

The attached complaint originated from a citizen named (b) (6), (b) (6)@aol.com, who sent it through the OIG hotline as well as to other parties. Since a number of the "for your information" complaints originate from customers who require "extra care" you might consider having the response emailed from a member of your staff who can take the extra time to handle this customer. I suspect there will be some back and forth to explain the product's science.

Yours truly,

(b) (6)  
(b) (6)

Internal Control and Audit Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:48 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Waskevich, Charles - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Notice of Investigation 12-0040

Here's the response to the question raised in the complaint. Is my email response sufficient or do you need the response placed on a letterhead memo/letter? If so, to whom? Thanks.

Response: Lean finely textured beef (LFTB) is a meat food product whereby heat and a mechanical process are applied to meat trimmings to reduce the fat content. Because the temperature does not exceed 107° F, the proteins are not denatured during the process. The product does not appear to have been heat treated and has similar performance characteristics as meat. LFTB typically contains at least 14 percent protein, no more than 10 percent fat, and has a protein efficiency ratio of 2.5 resulting in a product that is compositionally similar to beef. Therefore, FSIS determined that LFTB may be used and labeled as beef in the formulation of ground beef and other meat food products.

Moreover, anhydrous ammonia may be applied to LFTB by a Federal establishment as a food safety intervention. Anhydrous ammonia reacts with the moisture in LFTB to form ammonium hydroxide, the active component. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) lists ammonium hydroxide as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) in Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), section 184.1139 for use in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practice ([Title 21: Food and Drugs](#)). Data showed that the use of anhydrous ammonia under these conditions of use only provided a momentary effect for the reduction of microorganisms and that there was no significant difference in appearance, texture, flavor, or overall acceptability between treated and untreated product. Therefore, FSIS determined that the use of anhydrous ammonia to treat LFTB was consistent with FDA's definition of a processing aid in 21 CFR 101.100(a)(3)(ii)(c), i.e., substances that are added to a food for their technical or functional effect in the processing but are present in the finished food at insignificant levels and do not have any technical or functional effect in that food. FSIS applies FDA's definition of a processing aid on a case by case basis as described in the following compliance policy guide posted on the Agency's website ([http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Determination\\_of\\_Processing\\_Aids.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Determination_of_Processing_Aids.pdf)). Because processing aids are exempt from labeling ammonium hydroxide is not listed on the label.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
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Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 5:45 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Waskevich, Charles - FSIS  
**Subject:** Notice of Investigation 12-0040

See attached,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Internal Control and Audit Division

USDA, FSI, OFER

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: OPPD Referral Letter  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:01:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [ICAD-12-0040 attachment.htm](#)

---

As discussed.

(b) (6)  
Management Analyst  
USDA/FSIS/OPEER/ICAD  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 690-0071

---

**From:** (b) (6) FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OPPD Referral Letter

Thanks because he just asked.

(b) (6)  
(b) (6)  
Internal Control and Audit Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:59 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OPPD Referral Letter

Yes, I'll forward that to you.

(b) (6)  
Management Analyst  
USDA/FSIS/OPEER/ICAD  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 690-0071

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OPPD Referral Letter

(b) (6) is back – will have signatures today –

Was there a letter from the OIG for the Pink Slime referral? He will ask.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Internal Control and Audit Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 4:22 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** OPPD Referral Letter

(b) (6)

Please see the attached referral letter to OPPD prepared for (b) (6) signature as well as attached documents. Any questions, please let me know, thank you.

<< File: ICAD-12-0040 attachment.htm >> << File: OPPD Referral Letter ICAD-12-0040 3-13-12 ds edits.docx >>

(b) (6)  
Management Analyst  
USDA/FSIS/OPEER/ICAD  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 690-0071

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: pink slime - Ground Beef  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:40:53 PM

---

another

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:14 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: pink slime - Ground Beef

Please see the attached.

Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: juliemaples@ymail.com [mailto:(b) (6)@ymail.com]  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:16 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - Ground Beef

After watching ABC news last night and seeing the story about the "pink slime" I am absolutely appalled and disgusted that someone would make a decision like that on my behalf, to make the assumption that I would not care about ingesting that into my body, I as a human being have a right to know what I am buying, eating and drinking. And the person that made this decision had no right to do so. I am demanding that this stuff not be used.  
Julie Maples

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6)  
Cc: (b) (6)  
Subject: FW: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB  
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:58:19 PM

---

FYI, additional information you may not hear on the news.

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

EE# (b) (6)

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:32 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; FSIS - FO/DO15/Front Line Supervisors  
Cc: Gallegos, Anna - FSIS; Reeder, Robert - FSIS; Wagner, Scott - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

Interesting, yes, but only one side of the story; my opinion is that rather than share (promote?) one side of a hot-button topic we should be sharing a more rounded picture.

In regards to this particular article: what they refer to as “vats” appears to be a reference to what we know as “combos” and all of us know the requirements for sanitation, assuring what product that goes into combos (which does include trim but certainly no inedible product!), and the handling and shipping of combos. For sure combos are not dumped in railway tanker cars labeled “edible tallow.” I’ve worked at plants that did on-site rendering and produced ‘edible tallow’ – it has absolutely nothing to do with the production of LFTB.

For your further edification and consideration, below are links to some articles that present the other (and scientifically supportable) side of the story. The first is an industry response to the popular press information, while the second has more specific information on the use of ammonium hydroxide (NH3) in the production of LFTB as well as a list of other products that naturally contain NH3 or that use NH3 as an anti-microbial processing aid (and these are products millions consume every day). The third, in part, refers to the closure of some of the facilities that produce LFTB – one of which I worked at when I was a Relief SPHV in Lawrence District; that facility had high sanitation standards that they effectively implemented (we can only wish all of the plants where we provide inspection had such effective sanitation procedure implementation!) and very strict tracking of incoming combos of trim. The last link is a MythBusters-format article on LFTB.

1. <http://www.meatpoultry.com/Writers/Bryan%20Salvage/Assassinating%20effective%20technology.aspx>
2. [http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions\\_and\\_Answers\\_about\\_Ammonium\\_Hydroxide\\_Use\\_in\\_Food\\_Production](http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions_and_Answers_about_Ammonium_Hydroxide_Use_in_Food_Production)
3. <http://www.meatpoultry.com/News/News%20Home/Business/2012/3/BPI%20suspends%20operations%20at%20three%20plants.aspx>
4. <http://beefisbeef.com/2012/03/15/top-7-myths-of-pink-slime/>

There are those that would say that since the references I’ve provided “come from industry” that they can’t be trusted. I would respond by pointing out that industry has spent a great deal of money on research and has a vested interest in producing safe products while efficiently using as much of the raw product (in this case beef carcasses) as they can – this is smart both business-wise and environment-wise (it’s estimated by the American Meat Institute that it will take an additional million and a half head of cattle per year to make up the volume that will be lost due to not using LFTB – definitely not a “green” decision and one that will result in increased cost to consumers). I would further ask for - in addition to anecdotal observations - the scientific support (e.g., peer-reviewed, double-blind studies) that has been done by the popular press and/or those that provided the initial ‘pink slime’ stories for their version of the story. Yes, I am not an “if it’s on You-tube, it must be true” person!

And lastly I would like to point out that this process (producing LFTB) has been approved by USDA while the use of NH3 as a processing aid (for use not just in beef) has been reviewed and approved by FDA; I really have a difficult time believing that there



is a conspiracy that is so wide-spread that the decisions by both the USDA and the FDA (based on scientific studies) were controlled to the extent (that seems to be implied in the popular press) that both would approve a process/processing aid that results in a dangerous product to consumers.

(b) (6), DVM, MS  
USDA-FSIS-OFO-Denver District

Frontline Supervisor/Eugene Circuit (15-04)  
Mail:c/o Est. 09221

29476 Airport Road

Eugene, OR 97402

BB: (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:36 AM  
**To:** FSIS - FO/DO15/Front Line Supervisors  
**Cc:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS; Reeder, Robert - FSIS; Derrick, Greg - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Slime

FYI, interesting article.

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

BB# (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:23 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Slime

*This aired last night on ABC channel 4 in SLC. They even implicated Stouffers.*

[http://www.abc4.com/content/news/top\\_stories/story/Pink-Slime-The-Inside-Story/vm2n3PWs60uax36dzhsNGQ.csp](http://www.abc4.com/content/news/top_stories/story/Pink-Slime-The-Inside-Story/vm2n3PWs60uax36dzhsNGQ.csp)

(b) (6)

***Relief CSI***

***SLC Circuit***

(b) (6)

***To achieve, you need thought. You have to know what you are doing and that's real power.***  
***Ayn Rand***

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink slime 3  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:28:20 AM  
**Attachments:** [Pink slime 3.docx](#)

---

Kind of interesting. Not sure if they do this up north or not.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime 3

FYI

(b) (6)

*CSI, Relief*

*Grand Rapids Mi.*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime by USDA Design  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:48:18 AM

---

Did you receive this?

---

**From:** John Munsell [mailto:(b) (6)@midrivers.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 25, 2012 3:55 PM  
**To:** ","  
**Subject:** Pink Slime by USDA Design

Everyone:

The media has been awash with a plethora of articles about "***Pink Slime***", referring to treatment of beef trimmings with ammonia hydroxide. I suggest that the real issue is not the chemical treatment, but why such treatments are deemed necessary on meat coursing through commerce in containers proudly bearing the official USDA Mark of Inspection. Realizing these trimmings had already been "USDA Inspected and Passed", how can the agency classify such trimmings as "High Risk", and why must these approved trimmings be further purified? Last Friday, Food Safety News published my article which addresses these troubling questions. You won't like what you read.

John

<http://johnmunsell.com/blog/?p=100>



USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Van, Diane - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:30 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Tuverson, Robert - FSIS

**Subject:** Pink Slime Calls

Hotline Staff,

When you get an irate caller who is complaining that USDA should require labeling on products containing Ammonium Hydroxide (pink slime), here is a response you can give. This will very often diffuse an irate caller. All they really want is to be heard and register their complaint. If they think they are being heard they will calm down almost immediately. You can use this style of response for other irate callers as well. Always tell them (and it's true) that we are recording their concern. You do not have to use this wording verbatim:

"I understand your concern about the labeling of products that contain Ammonium Hydroxide. We record each call in our database and I have entered your concerns. The Agency periodically reviews our database and they will see your concern that you have registered."

Diane Van

Deputy Director, Food Safety Education Staff

Office of Public Affairs & Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service

5601 Sunnyside Ave., 2-L292

Beltsville, MD 20705

301-344-4777 Phone

301-504-0203 Fax

202-306-3857 Blackberry

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:23:18 PM

---

Carol,

Wanted to give you a heads up. Not sure if you need to be on the call – I'll wait for Dirk to come back from PAD with the download from Aaron – but wanted to flag for you. FNS has been a problem all the way throughout this exercise in that they have not been in sync with the rest of us.

We learned a little earlier today that FNS is having a conference call at 1:30 PM today with stakeholders on this topic – and by learned, I mean that Jarvis got an inquiry from the NY Times asking to listen in.

Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:16 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - OSEC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; DeJong, Justin - OC; (b) (6) - OC; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** Re: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A

I think a call is a good idea, are people available at 4:45pm today? If so, Aaron can send around call-in info.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:08 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; DeJong, Justin - OC; (b) (6) - OC; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A

Looping in (b) (6)

**Ashlee Nicole Johnson**

Office of Congressional Relations

U.S. Department of Agriculture

(202) 720-2413

[Ashlee.Johnson@osec.usda.gov](mailto:Ashlee.Johnson@osec.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:06 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FNS; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; DeJong, Justin - OC; (b) (6) - OC; (b) (6) - AMS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS

**Subject:** Re: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A

Looping additional individuals. Over the last week we have taken steps to help the dust settle across public audiences because the dialogue and discourse from customers, stakeholders, and media was not at a productive place - further fueled by the online frenzy. This frenzy is slowing down.

On the communications side we have shared solid details where we have them and only as needed as this is still unfolding. We have avoided stepping out with excessive details that will only amplify the stories.

Is there a balance we can find between handing out more information immediately to wider audiences and settling this down?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:55 AM

**To:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS

**Subject:** RE: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A

All,

We notified Ashlee yesterday of the need to have a coordinated departmental phone call on this issue. At this point, we are not sure who is the lead for the development and distribution of this type of information on LFTB, it is clearly not our regions and in fact, we did not participate in the talking points below. I can only restate the need for a phone call on this issue today, both Laura and SNP are feeling very exposed on this, we are trying to response to just our customer's need for information and realize this is leading to additional concerns. Happy to arrange a call with all USDA parties, let me know if I should proceed.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A

(b) (6)

Do you know anything about a conference call on LFTB happening today?

Bruce

**Bruce C. Alexander**  
**Director, Communications & Governmental Affairs**  
**U.S. Department of Agriculture - Food & Nutrition Service**  
**3101 Park Center Drive**  
**Alexandria, VA 22302**  
**(703) 305-2281 (office)**  
**[Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov)**

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Cc:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A

We are holding on this for now – the story is slowing down and we are trying not to push this further.

We are trying to track down a conference call that FNS is doing today with schools on LFTB – do you guys know anything about this?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:33 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Cc:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A  
**Importance:** High

Hi Aaron,

Following up to see if you had an opportunity to review? Our speechwriter is hoping to incorporate in a briefing book that is due at noon today.

Thanks, (b) (6)



**From:** [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Final Letter  
**Date:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:30:51 AM  
**Attachments:** [Signed copy of Chrisdzl@yahoo.com Pink Slime 7144229f21.docx](#)

---

Here's another one 7146965 that I'm reviewing now as a draft. (b) (6) just needs to update her files.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 1163-South Building  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945

Cell: (202) 503-7113  
Fax: (202) 205-0158

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:24 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Final Letter

I'm reviewing 7146962, which had the typo. Also, the cleared signed letter uploaded in that same ECM folder (attached as 7144229 "campaign") also has the typo (see last paragraph on page 1).

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 1163-South Building  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945

Cell: (202) 503-7113  
Fax: (202) 205-0158

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:19 AM  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Final Letter

What's the control number/folder?

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1162-S  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:19 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS

**Subject:** Pink Slime Final Letter

Team:

It is imperative that you pay closer attention to our final reviews. There is a typo in one of the cleared, signed letters that (b) (6) has authorized us to autopen. (b) (6) could you please update that paragraph, and (b) (6) and (b) (6) please give your closest attention towards reviewing and uncovering these types of errors. See paragraph below:

In 2001, FSIS concluded that this use of ammonia was consistent with FDA's definition of a processing aid and was not required to be listed on the label. The use of ammonia to treat boneless beef trimmings provides a momentary effect of a reduction of bacteria, but does not prevent the recontamination of the product. It also does not suppress the outgrowth of any cells of the pathogen that survive the treatment. In addition, data submitted to FSIS showed that

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director

ECIMS-Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 1163-South Building  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945

Cell: (202) 503-7113

Fax: (202) 205-0158

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime in Hamburger  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:54:34 AM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 2:27 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Pink Slime in Hamburger

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: Alvin Fulcher [mailto:(b) (6)@aol.com]  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 6:51 PM  
To: mphotline.fsis@usda.gov  
Subject: Pink Slime in Hamburger

The USDA need to revisit this false labeling or at least require accurate labeling of all ground beef sold with this nasty stuff in it. To me it's incredible that they can put scrap meat and chemicals into hamburger and call it food fit for humans. And we've been eating this stuff for year now. Truly disgusting.

From: (b) (6) - FSIS

To:

(b) (6)

Subject: FW: Pink slime info

Date: Friday, March 30, 2012 10:52:35 AM

---

FYI about "Pink Slime"!

(b) (6) D.V.M.

FLS

Circuit 3519

Hammond, La.

479-530-6073

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS

Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 9:04 AM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: FW: Pink slime info

(b) (6) D.V.M.

FLS

Circuit 3519

Hammond, La.

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@ldaf.state.la.us]

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:04 PM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: Pink slime info

<http://www.meatpoultry.com/Writers/Bryan%20Salvage/Assassinating%20effective%20technology.aspx>

<http://www.timesrecordnews.com/news/2012/mar/24/pink-slime-not-based-on-facts/>

(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Information  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:48:07 PM

---

## More on pink slime!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)

**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Information

Here is the "pink slime" video link that Jamie Oliver posted that started all this from his TV show last year.

<http://youtu.be/wshlnRWnf30>

It is the centrifuging of beef trim that removes fat and the rest is treated with ammonium hydroxide and then the result ground and it looks like regular hamburger. It is allowed to be added to ground beef at the rate of 15% without any labeling of the substance in the ground beef. The major restaurant chains that were using it stopped due to public outcry and apparently the government bought it up to put into the school lunch program creating the next public outcry. Like 7 million pounds of it! We should all be educated about it because the American public is very concerned and ask me about it all the time I don't know why they would not be asking all of us on a daily basis. The health or whole food people are concerned with making their bodies in a more basic (ph) form. This does reduce the acidity of the beef and that is why it is a good killer of pathogenic microbes.

Dr. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@agri.ohio.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:55 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)

**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Information

We have had a few calls concerning the new media hype about pink slim in hamburgers. I don't know much about it, but got this information from (b) (6) I thought for those of you that have had friends, plants and others wondering about it refer them to this link.

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@osu.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:57 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Information

Here is a video that AMI did about using pink slime in hamburgers:

[www.meatmythcrushers.com/myths/myth-ordinary-household-ammonia-is-used-to-make-some-hamburgers.html](http://www.meatmythcrushers.com/myths/myth-ordinary-household-ammonia-is-used-to-make-some-hamburgers.html)

I thought I had a couple of websites also, but still looking for them.

(b) (6)

This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

**From:** [Leach, Ann - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Information  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 6:33:59 AM

---

Please mention this video site in this week's meeting with all of your plants so they can view an expert's comment on the pink slime that has been in the news lately. It is very informative and should be shared with our meat plants.

**Ann Leach**

District Supervisor  
Department of Agriculture  
Division of Meat Inspection  
Cell 1 -614-653-0335  
Office 1-216-391-8413  
[Ann.Leach@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Ann.Leach@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@agri.ohio.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:55 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Information

We have had a few calls concerning the new media hype about pink slim in hamburgers. I don't know much about it, but got this information from (b) (6). I thought for those of you that have had friends, plants and others wondering about it refer them to this link.

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC](#); [Ronholm, Brian - OSEC](#); [Almanza, Al - FSIS](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#); [Ramos, Adela - OSEC](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC; [Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Letter  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 8:35:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [FINAL Pink Slime to Secretary Vilsack.pdf](#)

---

FYI only, this will go to AMS for a response. But note that Pingree raises the topic that we raised in our meeting with OC, that less affluent school districts will be forced to use this product.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)



Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:43 PM  
**To:** DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: Pink Slime Letter

FYI -

Christopher Gould  
Congressional & Public Affairs Office  
USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service  
202-690-4546  
202-365-0186 (cell)

---

**From:** Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 05:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Lavalley, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC; Gould, Christopher - FSIS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Letter

Pingree's letter has arrived. Bill will you take care of looping this into the appropriate response process for AMS?

***Ashlee Nicole Johnson***



Office of Congressional Relations  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
(202) 720-2413  
[Ashlee.Johnson@osec.usda.gov](mailto:Ashlee.Johnson@osec.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Benjamin, Claire [mailto:(b) (6)@mail.house.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:09 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FNS; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Letter

(b) (6) and Ashlee - Please find a letter to Secretary Vilsack from Congresswoman Pingree and 41 of her colleagues on pink slime in schools. Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions.

--

Claire Benjamin  
Legislative Director  
Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (ME-01)  
1318 Longworth HOB  
202-225-6116  
[www.pingree.house.gov](http://www.pingree.house.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime letters  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:45:26 AM  
**Attachments:** [Nancy Zazzaro-Pink Slime.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

You can get that OES30 (7184011) started at this point, based on the version that's going to Dan for signature. He's already cleared it in ECM, so we should be ready to go.

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime letters  
**Importance:** High

Good Morning All,

For those of you working on "Pink Slime" letters, cleared language in a letter I prepared is going up for signature. Once the letter is signed, I will forward you a copy. However, I am quite sure that eventually, the language will be changed.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) *fsis.usda.gov*

**Check your Steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basis/index.html>**

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime letters  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:01:34 PM

---

Hello all, confirmation from (b) (6) to drop his signature in the pink slime letters.

(b) (6)

**FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS**

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**(Desk)** (b) (6)

**(Fax) 202-720-7609**

**FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS**

*TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION*

*BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE*

*DR. MARTIN L. KING*

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime letters

You can drop my signature in the letters. Thanks.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (202) 368-5457 -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 1:58 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS

**Subject:** Pink Slime letters

<< File: 20120319104432675.pdf >>

Dan, we have about 30 Pink Slime letters to go out in ECIMS. Do you want to sign them or can I just drop your signature in them. Thanks

(b) (6)

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(Desk) (b) (6)

(Fax) 202-720-7609

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

*TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION.*

*BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE*

*DR. MARTIN L. KING*

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**Cc:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime petition  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 4:07:52 PM

---

Mike,

I may need your help on this. I will call you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 4:06 PM  
To: 'Knowles, David'  
Cc: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Pink Slime petition

David -

Off the record,

I don't see an attachment but if this is a formal petition to FSIS there are appropriate channels for it to go through.

We are at a point where we are getting a little frustrated.

We have stated repeatedly that we don't have an order with BPI - that is not how it works. Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) - the BPI product you reference - is a raw material that USDA includes as an allowable raw material in several beef items it procures. It is included in these products by the vendors that produce it. We then make purchases through vendors.

What your story failed to point out is that the local schools all over the nation are the ones buying the vast majority of this product - if they don't want to, they don't have to, like USDA they buy from vendors who may or may not use this product. What your story also failed to point out is that this is commercially available all over the US and common in ground beef people consume everyday.

-----Original Message-----

From: Knowles, David [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@thedaily.com](mailto:(b) (6)@thedaily.com)]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 3:52 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
Subject: Pink Slime petition

Dear Aaron,

The Daily is running a story about a woman who started a petition this morning to try and get the USDA to stop from buying LBT from Beef Products, Inc. I am attaching her web article which contains a letter to Secretary Vilsak as well as the petition.

I have a couple of questions for the story (which will run tomorrow):

1. Was anyone at the USDA, or Secretary Vilsak, aware of the petition before receiving it from me today?
2. Have there been other complaints about BPI's LBT in recent days?
3. Would it even be possible to cancel USDA's order from BPI for this year?

Thanks, as always for your help.

Best regards,  
David Knowles  
Reporter, The Daily  
(b) (6)

---

From: Lavallee, Aaron [Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov]  
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 10:10 AM  
To: Knowles, David  
Cc: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Subject: RE: BPI questions

David,  
My apologies for the delay - I was out sick yesterday. I want to make clear that our emails off the record for now.

I am going to need some time to look in to this and will loop in my colleague Dirk on this email.

I am not familiar with either of these gentlemen but I have some concerns with their statements below and your plan to use them.

I need to make very clear what FSIS does. FSIS is responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, correctly labeled and packaged. So if the validity of these individuals is based on the fact that they were FSIS employees then we have concerns because FSIS does not "consider something to be ground beef" and does not determine "inferior quality." FSIS is in the business of inspecting, not grading. So what these gentlemen are saying would appear to be personal opinions, not professional assessments or statements.

Also I would double check some of the dates as I believe JoAnn Smith may have been at USDA well before that.

We are going to do some checking on this and get back with you shortly. What is your timeline and the best number to reach you at?

Aaron Lavallee  
Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.720.6959  
Cell: (b) (6)  
aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov  
<http://www.usda.gov>

Stay Connected with USDA:

-----Original Message-----

From: Knowles, David [mailto:(b) (6)@thedaily.com]  
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 3:40 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron  
Subject: BPI questions

Dear Aaron,

I've been asked to do another story on the BPI's product that will look into the red flags raised by two former FSIS employees, Carl Custer and Gerald Zirnstein. I've interviewed both gentlemen and wanted to give USDA a chance to respond to some of the statements that each has made that will be used in the piece.

Mr. Zirnstein says he visited BPI's factory in 2002 and that he raised concerns about their LBT product. In a March 2002 e-mail, Zirnstein termed the product "pink slime" and said he did not consider it to be ground beef (as per the USDA's definition). Does this jibe with USDA's recollection?

Mr. Custer, along with others in the department, received that e-mail, which confirmed his conclusions about BPI's product. Custer said he first encountered BPI back in the late 90's, and also concluded that the LBT was of an "inferior quality" to ground beef. It is his recollection that in 2002, then undersecretary JoAnn Smith declared of BPI's product, "If it's pink, then it's meat," and that FSIS dropped its objections to the LBT product thereafter. Can you corroborate or deny any of that?

Since the Dec. 30 2009 New York Times article detailing cases of E-Coli in BPI meat, what measures has USDA taken to insure that their LBT product is inspected on a regular basis? Are there any other steps USDA and FSIS have taken to allay the concerns raised by Mr. Zirnstein and Mr. Custer?

Thank you, once again, for your help with this. It's important to me to have the facts of this story reported properly.

Best,  
David Knowles  
Reporter, The Daily

(b) (6)

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From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
Subject: FW: Pink Slime Q's  
Date: Friday, March 16, 2012 9:57:58 AM

---

(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

It would be great if we can provide 'pink slime' numbers, I think they may find the information interesting downtown:

Could you please get some type of count at end of day for such calls on the hotline?

It's hard to gauge based on the news lately what to expect (lower or higher numbers)

(b) (6) if you could get the HL numbers and (b) (6) could you get the Chat ones on 'pink slime' and send the info to Brian Mabry (see below)?

---

You may have seen this news release at usda.gov:

**USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year:**

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&contentidonly=true>

and on our FSIS website meetings related to National School Lunch program:

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/NR\\_031412\\_01/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_031412_01/index.asp)

Thanks and have a great weekend everyone!

(b) (6)

---

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:57 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Q's

(b) (6)

Thanks – do y'all have a good estimate of how many contacts you have received overall, and any trends on the calls (ie, I assume it is still increasing)? We are working with OC but it is a difficult process. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:46 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Q's

<< File: Pink Slime March 2012.docx >> Brian, attached is a small sample of inquiries we're beginning to receive related to 'pink slime'

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Phone: 301-344-4763  
E-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Tuverson, Robert - FSIS](#); [Van, Diane - FSIS](#); [Harris, Mary - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:49:14 AM  
**Importance:** High

---

Can you please send me what we provided to hotline callers starting back in February?  
Need it quickly this morning.

Thanks!

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:44 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Can you find out what we provided to the hotline for TPs back at the beginning of February

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:32 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

We are getting a number of calls on our Hotline about the pink slime, and need to provide responses. Can we provide callers with the information contained in the quote we distributed last night? Anything else that has been approved that we can provide? Thanks

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:26 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Good morning Dirk

We're beginning to get some inquiries --mostly negative--as related to "pink slime:" would you have updated key points?

This appears to have re-surfaced in the media quite recently.

Mostly, calls or e-mails are about "how does USDA allow usage of such 'pink slime' or 'ammonia' in beef?"

They are quite resentful in their tone.

Please let me know,

I look forward to your response.

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:02 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Hi (b) (6)

I always seem to get confused about this topic. Is the "pink slime" the same as the TG enzyme and the same as what is in the Jamie Oliver show? Anyway, here are the questions from Ask Karen over the past few days. I've forwarded them to ECIMS. I had one call that was transferred to me from (b) (6) about the TG enzyme yesterday. I handled that okay because I had talking points.

Anyway, here are the questions

1. 2/2/12 "how can you sleep at night allowing red slime ammonia treated crap to be added to beef? You ought to be ashamed, if not put in jail."
2. 2/2/12 "Why is pink slime allowed to be used?"
3. 2/1/12 "I just read an article that McDonald's will stop using "pink slime" (beef waste treated with ammonia) in their burgers. How can the USDA label "pink slime" safe?"
4. 2/1/12 I have been seeing lately a lot of information about food processing. The latest is that ammonia is added to ground beef. Is that true? I have two children to protect and would hate to think that in feeding them "healthy" food, I am in fact feeding them household cleaner. Any information you could give me on this would be helpful as I really am striving to give my children good foods. Thank you.
5. 2/1/12 I recently watch Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution and found out 70% of America's Beef is Treated with Ammonia. Even if it was 10% of America's beef it would be very disappointing.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wshlnRWnf30>

Please tell me that the USDA does NOT allow this type of meat to be sold in the US. Is this true?

6. 1/30/12 "Why do you allow ammonium hydroxide to be put into our food without warning us? YOU ARE SICK. Stop ceding to corporate interests. It is time to stand up for our planet and all its inhabitants. To do otherwise is not only anti-American, but anti-planet. We will no longer tolerate the choice of corporations and industry over the concerns of our only planet. Our greedy, fascist, corporate government is WAY out of control. The People are extremely sick of your greedy, corporate, power-hungry policies. Reel yourselves in or The Revolution will do your job for you. You have been warned."

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2L-248D

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:06:06 AM

---

Good morning, Dr. Engeljohn,

We have received quite a few consumers calling the Meat and Poultry Hotline with concerns about “pink slime.” Would the statement below be accurate to distribute? If so, we’ll send it up the chain for additional review. Thanks

“The U.S. Food and Drug Administration determined that using ammonia hydroxide in order to control pathogens in beef is a safe practice. Given that it is not harmful for people to consume and has been demonstrated to reduce foodborne pathogens in beef products being sold to consumers, USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service permits its use in the ground beef production process.”

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Readout  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:30:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)

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See below

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**From:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:20 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; DeJong, Justin - OC; (b) (6) - OC; (b) (6) - OC  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Readout

Examiner- 1 hr  
WWMT-TV-MI- 1 hr  
Houston Chronicle Blog- 2 hrs  
Chicagoist-2 hrs  
Globe and Mail blog- 2 hrs  
CBS Chicago- 3 hrs  
eSchool News- 3 hrs

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 11:33 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OC; DeJong, Justin - OC; (b) (6) - OC  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC; Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Readout

-Fort Worth Star Telegram  
-Roanoke/Lynchburg, VA newspaper  
-SuperTalk Radio Mississippi

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; DeJong, Justin - OC; (b) (6) - OC  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC; Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Readout

Quick update-

Mother Jones-4 hrs  
Food Beast- 2 hrs  
Phoenix New Times (blog)- 1 hr  
The Inquisitr- 15 hrs  
Village Voice (blog)- 1 day  
Grist-2 days

ABC 57 (TV)-IN- 1 hr  
KTLA (TV)-CA- 3 hrs





<a href="#">Slime” on School Lunch Trays</a>	41	(9%)	4	30	(6%)	2	11	37	19
<a href="#">Pink Slime: It's What's for Lunch in America's Schools via</a>	130	(9%)	12	43	(9%)	4	9	21	22
<a href="#">Pink Slime in School Lunches   One Green Planet</a>	14	(7%)	1	14	(7%)	1	6	41	15
<a href="#">Parents and school administrators Upset to learn "pink slime" still being served to kids. via</a>	18	(11%)	2	18	(11%)	2	6	32	18
<a href="#">Students Eating "Pink Slime" for Lunch? (call Jamie Oliver back)</a>	4	(50%)	2	4	(50%)	2	4	81	5
<a href="#">Pink Slime For School Lunch: Government Buying 7 Million Pounds Of Ammonia-Treated Meat For Meals</a>	22	(18%)	4	20	(20%)	4	2	10	22
<a href="#">School lunches still contain 'pink slime'   Grist</a>	127	(15%)	20	5	(0%)	0	1	15	21

**From:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 6:02 PM

**To:** DeJong, Justin - OC; Chan, Stephanie - OC; (b) (6) - OC

**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC; Rowe, Courtney - OC

**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Readout

We have inquiries from  
Mother Jones,  
Fox News Denver  
CBS News Online  
Diane Sawyer – ABC  
Houston Chronicle  
The Daily (again)

Also got an inquiry from a Colorado Food Procurement office for the city of Denver, he has received calls from 5 different schools.

There is a dedicated Twitter hashtag #pinkslime

There is a change.org petition:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food#>

“Due to public outcry, fast food giants like McDonald's and Burger King have stopped using pink slime in their

food. But the federal government continues to allow its use in school food and has just authorized the purchase of an additional 7 million pounds of the substance for consumption by our nation's children -- putting them at possible risk for food borne illness.

Tell the USDA to STOP the use of pink slime in the National School Lunch Program!

The online petition went from 600 to 940 signatures in the last hour

Sample tweets:

@DailyMomReport: Feds keep buying 'pink slime' (ammonia-treated ground beef) for school lunches  
<http://t.co/2HmTJ9Ww> #pinkslime #school lunch #school #food

@thelunchtray: @CivilEats @Grist Please spread the word re petition 2 end #pinkslime in #schoolfood. 650 sigs & now on USDA's radar! <http://t.co/1hGZuBm7>

To be clear this is no longer a food safety story – this is about us buying this product and serving it to kids.

---

**From:** DeJong, Justin - OC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 5:44 PM  
**To:** Chan, Stephanie - OC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC; Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Readout

Thanks Steph. Can you or (b) (6) do another quick assessment tomorrow morning? We need to watch developments on this story closely.

**Justin DeJong**  
Deputy Director, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.690.0548  
USDA Cell: 202.251.3309  
[justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov](mailto:justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov)  
<http://www.usda.gov>

Stay Connected with USDA:



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**From:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 5:43 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; DeJong, Justin - OC  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Readout

Looks like it's still bubbling. Lots of blogs and the HuffPo piece was only picked up by one NBC affiliate in Washington state and small blogs.

The Daily Meal (blog)- 2 hrs  
Opposing Views- 3 hrs

The Stir (Mom blog)- 6 hrs

Global Grind (Blog- 'The world according to hip hip')- 6 Hrs

Northwest Ohio Newspaper – 10 hrs

Huffington Post- 1 day

Gothamist (blog) – 1 day

Business Insider- 1 day

Food and Drink Digital – 1 day

Global Post (Blog)- 1 day

Iowa State Daily- Feb 26

Forbes – feb 17

CO CBS Affiliate- Feb 10

**From:** [Chan, Stephanie](#)  
**To:** [Lavalley, Aaron](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime used in burger beef  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:23:43 PM

---

Gents? I know nothing about this, but it sounds lovely...

Stephanie Chan

Deputy Press Secretary, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Desk: (202) 720-5555 | Cell: (b) (6)  
[Stephanie.chan@oc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.chan@oc.usda.gov)

Stay Connected with USDA:

-----Original Message-----

From: Brian Shannon [<mailto:bshannon@radio-one.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:13 PM  
To: [stephanie.chan@usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.chan@usda.gov)  
Subject: Pink Slime used in burger beef

Stephanie,

Per our conversation, I am looking to speak with a representative about "Pink Slime", inedible meat treated with ammonia and added as filler in fast food burgers. The USDA claims it is safe.

Here is one story that has broken nationally about this process:

KREM

Posted on January 31, 2012 at 11:07 AM

McDonald's has made a menu change, announcing the restaurant will no longer use a food additive some have dubbed "pink slime."

The food additive is a filler made from spare beef trimmings treated with ammonium hydroxide. The process kills off any bacteria, and it's recently come under fire by critics.

Nicknamed "pink slime," it's been criticized in the news<[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763\\_162-57368380-10391704/mcdonalds-scraps-pink-slime-from-burgers/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763_162-57368380-10391704/mcdonalds-scraps-pink-slime-from-burgers/)>, a major documentary and by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver.

However, McDonald's contends their decision is not based on any particular event.

The USDA has approved the use of ammoniated beef trimmings, stating it is safe.

My deadline is 6:00 p.m. this evening Eastern standard time. Preferably 3:30, 4:30, or 5:30 pm EST.

Thank you,

Brian Shannon

Editor

News 92 FM

KROI-FM, Houston, Tx

www.news92fm.com < <http://www.news92fm.com> >

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime used in hamburger  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:33:52 PM

---

Brown Slime = *Really* Bad?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime used in hamburger

Pink Slime = Good

Green Slime = Bad?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)@clermson.edu; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime used in hamburger

Dr. (b) (6) do you have any information on this subject? (b) (6) from Poston Packing company is getting questions from his customers and asked me about it. Thanks

Dr. (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) len - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: pink slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:44:23 PM

---

This goes with my previous e-mail. Plants want to know if they can get something in writing stating that they do not use pink slime in their ground beef.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:19 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)  
- FSIS; (b) (6) (DO65) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)  
- FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector  
USDA,FSIS,OFO

Hartford, Connecticut





**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:55:16 AM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 2:28 PM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Pink Slime

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)@tampabay.rr.com [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:(b) (6)@tampabay.rr.com)]  
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 11:05 AM  
To: MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov  
Subject: Pink Slime

The ammonia treated "meat" by-products known as "pink slime" should not be allowed to be used for human consumption, especially not by our school children!

Donna L. Cahill

**From:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:33:35 AM

---

Please see attached message.

Thank you,

---

**From:** TMV [mailto:(b) (6)@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 9:35 AM  
**To:** FSIS Labeling; MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

I want to know when filler has been added to the meat I buy. You must specifically define "meat" that is intended for human consumption as "muscle meat." If the product contains anything other than muscle tissue, then a label must be added to the package to alert the consumer. Not all of us want to eat chemically treated tripe!

Act now to remedy this issue!

Tina Valentine

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:40:01 AM

---

What do you think?

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector

Akron, OH

Office: (b) (6)

Cell : (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wshlnRWnf30>

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector

Akron, OH

Office: (b) (6)

Cell : (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: pink slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:43:19 AM  
**Importance:** Low

---

Hello (b) (6)

Most of what I hear about food stuffs doesn't bother me. – this one does for some reason. I think because it seems like a labeling misrepresentation. I know from the allergen task that labeling is very important.  
How do the FSIS field inspectors handle this?

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:36 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** pink slime  
**Importance:** Low

<http://parenting.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/03/09/will-there-be-pink-slime-in-your-childs-school-lunch/?scp=1&sq=pink%20slime&st=cse>

**From:** (b) (6) - APHIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:04:40 AM

---

Good morning, (b) (6)—hope all is going well with you! Please see the e-mail chain below—obviously this came to us by mistake. Do you folks have any language to address the question, or do you know where I can obtain language? Thanks so much!!!

(b) (6)

On Mar 8, 2012, at 8:51 PM, "(b) (6) - APHIS"  
(b) (6) <[@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@aphis.usda.gov)> wrote:

What do I do with this?

Begin forwarded message:

Dear Ms. (b) (6)

Is the BEEF PRODUCTS  
Company additive commonly  
known as "pink slime" still being  
added to ground beef in the US?

Thanks,

Ed Taylor  
Brevard, NC

**From:** [FSIS Webmaster](#)  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:05:17 AM

---

Please see the attached.

Thank you

---

**From:** Ed Taylor [mailto:(b) (6)@citcom.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 7:42 PM  
**To:** GCPD@gov.texas.gov; Constituent@governor.wpo.state.ks.us  
**Cc:** fsis.webmaster@usda.gov; hun@consumersunion.org; (b) (6)@meatami.com; (b) (6)@beefproducts.com  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Dear Governors:

I see that you are defending "pink slime" as a beef additive. You don't seem to get it! Why was the product secretly included in ground beef keeping the public unawares? I think it is the money trail, as is your entry into the squabble. I stopped buying ground beef until I could be sure that it was not present in my market's beef. I do not want to purchase ground beef that contains a frozen and thawed additive made of beef by-products. It is not ground beef, it is finely textured so the label lies. Also, ground beef is not normally treated with ammonia, so another failure in labeling. I liked the question, "If it's beef why is it not sold as a stand alone product?" If you want to squirt it into a casing and sell it as a wiener then do so, but don't put it in my ground beef unless I have a choice to buy or not! It may well be safe but there are many things that may be safe to eat that I don't choose to eat. They say two things you don't want to see in the making are sausage and politics, now ground beef enters the fray mixed with politics so it seems.

Ed Taylor  
Brevard, NC

**From:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: pink slime  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:25:07 PM

---

Please see the attached.

Thank you

---

**From:** Marcie Phillips [mailto:(b) (6)@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 7:52 PM  
**To:** Meat and Poultry Hotline  
**Subject:** pink slime

I am writing to request the ban of Pink Slim in human grade beef products. Following the lead of other countries.. we in the US should NOT be subjected to this in our food. To have this product hiding in our food should not be allowedl

Thank you!  
Mrs Phillips



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 6:15:31 AM  
**Attachments:** [PinkSlimeArticle.mht](#)

---

Good Morning (b) (6)

If you get any questions about pink slime here is some facts. Everyone I talk to ask me if I saw the news about pink slime. Hope you are settling in well at your new duty station.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:56 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 7:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Good article on facts.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime.. How can they be allowed to put this stuff in a package and sell it ...  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 3:21:47 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:00 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Pink Slime.. How can they be allowed to put this stuff in a package and sell it ...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@hotmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120319-000061

**Summary:** Pink Slime.. How can they be allowed to put this stuff in a package and sell it ...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/19/2012 09:50 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/19/2012 09:50 PM

**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/19/2012 09:50 PM

Pink Slime..

How can they be allowed to put this stuff in a package and sell it to us without telling us its in there.

I dont want to eat it. I feel I have a right to know whats in the package I pay my hard earned money to buy.

To me its not just the question, Is it safe? But I want to fully understand what im paying for.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: pink slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:08:51 PM

---

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 04:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime

I used the word organic because if they purchase organic meat and it is labeled as such, that is a guarantee that pink slime is not in the product and all consumers know the safety in that specific label. Otherwise, they can search the web or ask FSIS.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime

What does this have to do with organic? They're just asking if there is such a thing as a letter that would say there is no pink slime in their ground beef.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:28 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime

They should Ask FSIS, however all organic produced product is labeled as such and establishments cannot add anything to the product.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: pink slime

This goes with my previous e-mail. Plants want to know if they can get something in writing stating that they do not use pink slime in their ground beef.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:19 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) (DO65) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)

(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** pink slime

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector  
USDA,FSIS,OFO

Hartford, Connecticut

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:38:43 AM

---

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 12:45 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime

Hi Team & Future Team Members,

Here is what "pink slime" look like in case you are interested. Article found in [www.theblaze.com](http://www.theblaze.com) titled USDA Buys...

(b) (6)

Today, many parents will be questioning the wisdom of a government-controlled school lunch program. Why? Because the Feds have announced that the USDA is buying seven million pounds of something that is affectionately known as "pink slime."

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:01:36 PM

---

When you click on this site, scroll down and click on the foot notes. There are a couple of good interviews with Dr. (b) (6). Thanks,

(b) (6)

TA Coordinator/Case Specialist

NCDA&CS

Meat & Poultry Inspection Division

1001 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699

(b) (6) Office

(b) (6) Cell

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:42 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink\\_slime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink_slime)

Found this, It appears to break down what you were explaining earlier. Most people that are computer friendly will hit Wikipedia for answers quicker than most resources available.

(b) (6)

*Administrative Assistant I*

*Head Quarters*

*MPID, NC Dept of Agric. and CS*

*Office* (b) (6)

*Fax 919-715-0182*

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.



**From:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink slime  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:26:56 PM

---

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: Kevin Higgins [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\) @gmail.com](mailto:(b) (6) @gmail.com)]  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 11:02 PM  
To: MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov  
Subject: Pink slime

Dear Dirk Fillpot:

I urge the USDA to stop feeding meat waste to our nation's children in the school lunch program. Further, I believe that no one should be eating this stuff. It is my understanding that the meat industry is making about \$500 million dollars per year from material that should only be fed to dogs and cats.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Higgins  
Columbia, South Carolina

**From:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:20:29 AM

---

Please see the attached.

Thank you

---

**From:** TMV [mailto:(b) (6)@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 9:35 AM  
**To:** FSIS Labeling; MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

I want to know when filler has been added to the meat I buy. You must specifically define "meat" that is intended for human consumption as "muscle meat." If the product contains anything other than muscle tissue, then a label must be added to the package to alert the consumer. Not all of us want to eat chemically treated tripe!

Act now to remedy this issue!

Tina Valentine

**From:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: pink slime/Forwarded from the Governor's Office  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:14:40 PM

---

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: Food Inspection [<mailto:foodinsp@freshfromflorida.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:41 AM  
To: MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov  
Cc: alexander433@bellsouth.net  
Subject: RE: Forwarded from the Governor's Office

To whom it may concern,  
Please see the below complaint regarding a meat processing facility.

Thank you

Food Inspection  
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Division of Food Safety  
3125 Conner Boulevard, Suite D  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650  
Office (850)-245-5520  
FAX (850) 245-5553

-----Original Message-----

From: jean alexander [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@bellsouth.net](mailto:(b) (6)@bellsouth.net)]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 9:12 PM  
To: Governor Rick Scott  
Subject: [Spam:\*\*\*\*\* SpamScore] Pink Slime

From: jean alexander [\(b\) \(6\)@bellsouth.net](mailto:(b) (6)@bellsouth.net)>

County: Alachua

Zip Code: 32210-4929

Message Body: jean alexander  
[\(b\) \(6\)@bellsouth.net](mailto:(b) (6)@bellsouth.net)  
jacksonville, FL 32210-4929

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Rick Scott  
Governor of Florida  
The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Governor Scott:

Dear Sir;

I would like you to conduct a thorough investigation of the Fortune 500 company- Cargill and if their meat by-products(Pink Slime) are being hidden in the food that we buy in Florida I would like them banned or at very least labelled for identification. I am shocked to know that for thirty or forty years they have been sweeping the floor of scraps previously used for pet food and spraying it with ammonia so that they can produce "Pink Slime". Former employees have attempted to bring the matter to light but apparently the Cargill company has friends in Washington and have been protected.

With inflation I am now paying \$4 and \$5 per pound for ground beef and I am horrified to know what I have been eating. The stores that use this disgusting slop are protected so we have no way of knowing where not to shop. More horrifying is that the USDA has been allowing this garbage in school lunches. I am so ashamed of a government that abuses its people in matters such as this.

Sincerely,

jean alexander

(b) (6)

jean alexander sent this message via Congress.org, which uses the CapwizXC system. Congress.org is a free public service of Capitol Advantage and Knowlegis, LLC. You may access Congress.org here: <http://congress.org>

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slimes  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:54:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[PinkSlimeMetrics0312.docx](#)

---

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**From:** Paul, Matt - OC  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:49 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; DeJong, Justin - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; (b) (6) - OC; Chan, Stephanie - OC  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slimes

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:16 PM  
**To:** Paul, Matt - OC  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slimes

Hi Matt,

Attached and pasted below is a quick run down of what's happening online regarding this story. Please let me know if you have any questions.

### **Social Media Metrics**

03/12/12

-  
"Pink Slime" discussion continues on Twitter. The largest driver of online discussion is the Change.org petition that has gained over 177,000 signatures and has been linked to in 1,457 separate tweets. The number of signatures grows at a rate of several thousand an hour.

#### **Metrics:**

"Pink Slime" mentioned on Twitter: 35,000 times in the last 7 days  
#PinkSlime mentioned on Twitter: 1,895 times in the last 7 days  
[Change.org online petition](#): 177,000 online signatures out of a goal of 200,000; posted to Twitter 1,457 times.  
Top search term USDA.gov 3/05-3/11: 388 unique searches

\*\*A [second petition has been started](#) with Credo Action, a publication of Working Assets.

**On Friday 3/09, term “pink slime” ranked #6 on google’s top searches, up from #12 on Thursday 3/08.**

Twitter Mentions:

Twitter mentions of “Pink Slime” or #PinkSlime by influential thought leaders including large media outlets, celebrities, and stakeholders:

**TIME.com** (3,298,126 followers)

'Pink slime' could be coming to a school lunch near you | <http://t.co/ZwDJekn8> (via @TIMENewsFeed)

**Mashable** (2,777,482 followers)

Internet Users Flock To Google Search To Learn About 'Pink Slime' - <http://t.co/rekXplvR>

**Whole Foods Market** (2,336,952 followers)

[@LarryOsentoski](#) Our meat is source verified and our ground beef is made in-house from whole muscle meat. No pink slime <http://t.co/nSWNRqNV>

**Jamie Oliver** (2,034,992 followers)

WELL DONE [@thelunchtray](#) for continuing the fight against #pinkslime in school food SIGN IT <http://t.co/ykCjVNxF> #foodrevolution

**Huffington Post** (1,673,036 followers)

70% of supermarket ground beef contains pink slime <http://t.co/9LamInf4>

**Drew Brees** (NFL quarterback for New Orleans Saints) (1,046,016 followers)

Has anyone signed this petition on <http://t.co/IOirFew9> to prevent USDA from buying tons of "pink slime" to put in kids school lunches?

**NPR News** (895,687 followers)

Is It Safe To Eat Pink Slime

**SHAPE Magazine** (100,526 followers)

Once used in dog, food PINK SLIME is beef trimmings sprayed w/ ammonia & added to most ground beef as filler <http://t.co/vlpuiHTi> #pinkslime

**Change.org** (265,912 followers)

Pink slime for lunch? Bettina at [@thelunchtray](#) starts petition to get "pink slime" out of meals at school: <http://t.co/HVoYL6yF>

**Mark Bittman** (Food writer for NYT Opinion and Magazine) (235,955 followers)

Petition demanding that the USDA not buy pink slime for school lunches. Not exactly controversial ... and yet ..

**USA TODAY Health** (125,825 followers)

'Pink slime' eliminated from fast food, but not school lunches <http://t.co/jfChLfWM>

**Los Angeles Times** (246,752 followers)

'Pink slime': Revolting beef additive or absolutely edible

**Mother Jones** (107,092 followers)

Mmmm. The "pink slime" in your kid's school lunch: <http://t.co/z828nZ8P>

**Chicago Tribune** (76,485 followers)

'Pink slime': Revolting beef additive or absolutely edible

**AOL** (73,457 followers)

70% of supermarket ground beef contains pink slime <http://t.co/RPLif9IE> via [@huffpostfood](#)

**Farm Aid** (13,474 followers)

MT [@nonprofitorgs](#): 70% of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains Pink Slime: <http://t.co/Fy4iemVc> Another reason to shop your farmer's market!

NOTE: A few of the thought leaders listed above have worked with us in the past as validators for USDA initiatives or partnerships, and have now joined the campaign against "pink slime," including Drew Brees (Fuel Up to Play 60), Whole Foods (KYF2 Compass launch), and Farm Aid (KYF2 Compass launch).

Other Info:

Jamie Oliver video [was posted to the Allergy Kids Foundation website on 03/11](#). Site has been linked to on Twitter 255 times in 24 hours.

[Pinkslimeisamyth.com](http://Pinkslimeisamyth.com) blog started by Beef Products Inc. Site has been linked to 46 times on Twitter in the past 2 days.

---

**From:** Paul, Matt - OC  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:59 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Subject:** Pink Slimes

Can you give me a quick readout of traffic on this subject? Have a meeting at 1:45pm today and would like to provide an update on volume and impact of the social media campaign

Thanks

**Matt Paul**

Director, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.690.0060  
USDA Cell: 202.550.1375  
matt.paul@oc.usda.gov  
<http://www.usda.gov/newmedia>

*Stay Connected with USDA:*





**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Please respond to the news regarding the labeling of ground beef with pin...  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 1:21:17 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 4:06 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Please respond to the news regarding the labeling of ground beef with pin...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@aol.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120316-000037

**Summary:** Please respond to the news regarding the labeling of ground beef with pin...

**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress

**Date Created:** 03/16/2012 03:59 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/16/2012 03:59 PM

**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

**Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Email**

03/16/2012 03:59 PM

I never received a response to this

In a message dated 3/9/2012 7:16:04 P.M. Central Daylight Time,  
[askkaren@custhelp.com](mailto:askkaren@custhelp.com) writes:

Your question has been received. You should expect a response from us within the next 7 days.

Question Reference #120309-000081 Summary: Please respond to the news regarding the labeling of ground beef with pink slime... Date Created: 03/09/2012 07:16 PM Last Updated: 03/09/2012 07:16 PM Status: Unresolved Country: State: First Time Chatting?: Discussion Thread Customer By Web Form 03/09/2012 07:16 PM Please respond to the news regarding the labeling of ground beef with pink slime. I cannot fathom eating this, and feel I have a right to know.

Karen Young

(b) (6)

Waukesha, Wi. 53186 [---001:000500:47815---]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Please tell me the USDA's position on the meat extender called "pink slime." Is ...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:32:33 AM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:22 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Please tell me the USDA's position on the meat extender called "pink slime." Is ...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.  
Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@comcast.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000086

**Summary:** Please tell me the USDA's position on the meat extender called "pink slime." Is ...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Product Level 1:** Labeling

**Category Level 1:** Ground Beef

**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 08:06 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 08:21 AM

**Status:** Referred

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/09/2012 08:06 PM

Please tell me the USDA's position on the meat extender called "pink slime." Is it approved for food use? How is it produced? Thank you.

**Subject:** Processing Aids, Labeling and 'Pink Slime' and Settlement Reached in Wright County Egg Outbreak, Parts one and two.

# Processing Aids, Labeling and 'Pink Slime'

## What doesn't have to be labeled, and why?

by [James Andrews](#) | Mar 26, 2012

Since early March, the product notoriously known as "pink slime," Beef Products Inc.'s lean finely textured beef, has come under an unprecedented amount of scrutiny from most everyone who eats. The ensuing debate has prompted many to question why ground beef packages containing the product are not labeled as such, or at the very least, why the ammonium hydroxide gas used to kill bacteria on the beef is not labeled as an additive or ingredient.

Which elements of food production get labeled and which go incognito, and why?

In the case of lean finely textured beef, the answer to that question involves taking a look at the rules surrounding particular substances in food production called "processing aids."

Processing aids are substances used to aid food production, are not found at significant levels in the final product and have no "functional or technical effects" on the food. The wide-reaching category encompasses everything from organic acids in produce washes to dough strengtheners in frozen waffles.

In short, neither the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) require food makers to list processing aids on labels, and a wide variety of processing aids are allowed in food production as long as each one falls within the guidelines of being "Generally Recognized as Safe," a classification for ingredients often abbreviated as "GRAS."

The FDA keeps [lists](#) of GRAS products, whether they are used as additives or processing aids. (Whereas processing aids are not identifiable in foods, additives are ingredients required on the label because they are found in the final product and technically alter it.) These GRAS lists include everything from salt to chlorine gas to ammonium hydroxide, the antimicrobial used to sanitize lean beef trimmings.

To better illustrate the role of processing aids in food production, the USDA cites the example of a compound called sodium silicoaluminate and its role in sausage. The seasonings found in some sausages may include sodium silicoaluminate for its technical use as an anti-caking agent. Look at that sausage as a whole, however, and the presence of sodium silicoaluminate does not significantly change the food's identity as a sausage.

Given the complexity of the modern food system, accounting for every input that goes into the average supermarket product would be a challenging and largely impractical undertaking, said Dr. Richard Raymond, former undersecretary for food safety at USDA.

In theory, substances classified as processing aids should carry no distinguishable traits into the final product, and therefore identifying them all on a label should have little value, Raymond told

**Food Safety News.** But the classification of processing aids is not an exact science, he added, and some processes get excluded from the club.

As an example, Raymond cited the FDA's classification of irradiation as an additive rather than a processing aid despite the technique fitting the criteria of a processing aid. Food irradiation is the process of eliminating microorganisms from food through exposure to ionizing radiation.

In the U.S., meats, spices and some fruits and vegetables can be irradiated to improve safety or shelf life. Because of irradiation's classification as an additive, however, irradiated foods are designated with an international symbol, [the Radura](#), to inform consumers their food was treated with irradiation.

"When consumers see the Radura symbol on meat, they don't want to eat it," Raymond said. "But (for) whole carcass, low-dose irradiation is no different from any other processing aid that's generally recognized as safe."

As it turns out, classifying additives and processing aids as GRAS is not an exact science, either. As the term "Generally Recognized" implies, the FDA looks for a substance to be considered safe according to the consensus of qualified experts, but the agency simply lacks the resources to test all ingredients itself.

Individuals in the food industry often supply scientific data to the FDA for the agency to declare an additive or processing aid as GRAS. Because of the sheer number of substances involved in food production, the FDA relies on industry to vet products and has not conducted a full review of GRAS substances since the 1980s.

As a result, industry perception plays a role in whether a substance gets declared as a processing aid or an additive, and therefore whether or not it ends up on the label. By the nature of the categorizing process, each substance gets classified on an individual basis, as the USDA's federal food labeling guide explains:

"[The Food Safety Inspection Service] does not have a definition for incidental additives or processing aids. However, if a company believes that the use of a substance in the manufacture or formulation of a meat or poultry product is consistent with FDA's labeling definition for an incidental additive processing aid, then data needs to be submitted to FSIS to substantiate conformance with the FDA regulation. FSIS will determine on a case-by-case basis whether a request for the specific use of an ingredient is consistent with FDA's labeling definition of an incidental additive processing aid and thus, exempt from labeling."

As the scrutiny around lean finely textured beef continues, the intricacies of food labeling rules are certain to only make the debate slimier.

© Food Safety News

More Headlines from Food Policy & Law

**From:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#); [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: public comment on federal register FW: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on boad - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:17:04 AM

---

(b) (6)

This came in response to our FR below.

### **Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science  
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-6600  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 9:26 AM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: public comment on federal register FW: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on boad - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit

FYI

(b) (6)  
*Advisory Committee Specialist*  
*USDA, FSIS, OPHS, MD, NACMCF*  
*Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B*  
*1400 Independence Avenue, SW*  
*Washington, DC 20250*  
*Office:* (b) (6)  
*Fax:* 202-690-6364  
*Email:* (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** usacitizen1 usacitizen1 [mailto:usacitizen1@live.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 24, 2012 6:58 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov; deficitreduction@senate.gov; info@taxpayer.net; media@cagw.org  
**Subject:** public comment on federal register FW: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on boad - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit

no beltway insiders should be chosen. you should look for an honest person. insiders are always chosen. that is why our federal govt is so insane these days. no common sense is being shown. present decisions issuing from usda are hurting america. many countries dont want to buy american food. they have to be pressured to do it. they know we are getting ge Frankenfood, cloning, and other horrors,



where you dont label the bgh and other crap thatis done to food. this agency is sick and dishonest to the public. the quality of who is on the present advisory board, in my opinion, is not good. it needs iimprovement. what is being done to american people by the lousy people working at the usda is beyond belief. giving us pink slime to eat -thats an indication. esepcially in these times of bovine spongiform encelopathy.  
jean public

---

To: usacitizen1@live.com  
Subject: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on boad - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit  
From: (b) (6) @aol.com  
Date: Thu, 22 Mar 2012 10:30:09 -0400

[Federal Register Volume 77, Number 56 (Thursday, March 22, 2012)]  
[Notices]  
[Pages 16807-16809]  
From the Federal Register Online via the Government Printing Office  
[[www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov)]  
[FR Doc No: 2012-6895]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2012-0010]

Nominations for Membership on the National Advisory Committee on  
Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

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SUMMARY: This notice is announcing that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting nominations for membership to fill 16 vacancies on the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF).

NACMCF is seeking members with scientific expertise in the fields of epidemiology, food technology, microbiology (food, clinical, and predictive), toxicology, risk assessment, infectious disease, biostatistics, and other related sciences. NACMCF is seeking applications from persons from academia, industry, consumer groups, State governments, and the Federal Government, as well as all other interested persons with such expertise.

Please note that federally registered lobbyists cannot be considered for USDA advisory committee membership. Members can only serve on one USDA advisory committee at a time. All nominees will undergo a USDA background check.

Members who are not Federal government employees will be appointed to serve as non-compensated special government employees (SGEs). SGEs will be subject to appropriate conflict of interest statutes and standards of ethical conduct.

To receive consideration for serving on the NACMCF, a nominee must submit a resume and USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755. The resume or curriculum vitae must be limited to five one-sided pages and should include educational background, expertise, and a list of select publications. For submissions received that are more than five one-sided pages in length, only the first five pages will be reviewed. USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755 is available online at:  
<http://www.ocio.usda.gov/forms/doc/AD-755.pdf>.

DATES: Nominations including a cover letter to the Secretary, and the nominee's typed resume or curriculum vitae and a completed USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background

[[Page 16808]]

Information form AD-755 must be received by April 23, 2012. Self nominations are welcome.

ADDRESSES: Nomination packages including a cover letter to the Secretary accompanied by a resume and AD-755 form can be sent by mail to: Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Attn: National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Karen Thomas-Sharp, Advisory Committee Specialist, by telephone at 202-690-6620 or by email [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov).

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by either of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: This Web site (<http://www.regulations.gov>) provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this Web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Follow the online instructions at that site for submitting comments.

Mail, including CD-ROMS: Send to Docket Clerk, USDA, FSIS Docket Room, Patriots Plaza 3, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Mailstop 3782, Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

Hand- or courier-delivered items: Deliver to the Docket Clerk, USDA, FSIS Docket Room at Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. Street SW., Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2012-0010. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Docket: For access to background documents or comments received, go to the FSIS Docket Room at Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. Street SW., Room 8-164, Washington, DC 20250-3700 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The NACMCF was established in March 1988, in response to a recommendation in a 1985 report of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Food Protection, Subcommittee on Microbiological Criteria, "An Evaluation of the Role of Microbiological Criteria for Foods." The current charter for the NACMCF and other information about the Committee are available for viewing to the public on the FSIS Web site at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSID/NACMCF/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSID/NACMCF/index.asp).

The Committee provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services concerning the development of microbiological criteria by which the safety and wholesomeness of food can be assessed. For example, the Committee assists in the development of criteria for microorganisms that indicate whether food has been processed using good manufacturing practices.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that recommendations made by the Committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department.

Given the complexity of issues, the full Committee expects to meet at least once a year by teleconference or in-person, and the meetings will be announced in the Federal Register. The subcommittees will meet as deemed necessary by the chairperson and will be held as working group meetings in an open public forum. Subcommittees also may meet through teleconference or by computer-based conferencing (Webinars). Subcommittees may invite technical experts to present information for consideration by the subcommittee. The subcommittee meetings will not be announced in the Federal Register. FSIS will announce the agenda and subcommittee working group meetings through the Constituent Update, available online at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news & events/Constituent Update/index.asp>.

NACMCF holds subcommittee meetings in order to accomplish the work

of NACMCF; all subcommittee work is reviewed and approved during a public meeting of the full Committee, as announced in the Federal Register. All data and records available to the full Committee are expected to be available to the public when the full Committee reviews and approves the work of the subcommittee.

Advisory Committee members have a two-year term, renewable for two consecutive terms. Members are expected to attend all in-person meetings for the smooth functioning of this advisory committee. However, the Advisory Committee realizes that unexpected events or extenuating circumstances (e.g., a personal or family emergency) may result in a member's inability to attend an in-person meeting and that attendance through teleconferencing may be necessary. Some meetings may be held through teleconferencing and or Webinars exclusively.

Members must be prepared to work outside of scheduled Committee and subcommittee meetings and may be required to assist in document preparation. Committee members serve on a voluntary basis; however, travel expenses and per diem reimbursement are available.

#### Regarding Nominees Who Are Selected

All SGE and Federal government employee nominees who are selected must complete the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) 450 Confidential Financial Disclosure Report before rendering any advice or prior to their first meeting. All members will be reviewed for conflict of interest pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 208 in relation to specific NACMCF work charges. Financial disclosure updates will be required annually. Members must report any changes in financial holdings requiring additional disclosure. OGE 450 forms are available on-line at: <http://www.oge.gov/Financial-Disclosure/Confidential-Financial-Disclosure-450/OGE-Form-450/>.

#### Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this notice online through the FSIS Web page located at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations\\_and\\_policies/Federal\\_Register\\_Notices/index](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_and_policies/Federal_Register_Notices/index).

FSIS will also make copies of this Federal Register publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is also available on the FSIS Web page. In addition, FSIS offers an electronic mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_and\\_Events/Email\\_Subscription/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_and_Events/Email_Subscription/). Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or

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delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

#### USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, or audiotape.) should contact USDA's Target Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY).

To file a written complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Done at Washington, DC, on March 19, 2012.  
Alfred V. Almanza,

[REDACTED]

[FR Doc. 2012-6895 Filed 3-21-12; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:**  
**To:**

(b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: Question  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:57:48 AM

---

If you also have the same question (b) (6) had....

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Question

(b) (6)

Yes, labeling of LFTB is similar to AMR. The commodity itself needs a descriptive designation, e.g., "lean finely textured beef" or "BPI lean chips, derived from beef trimmings." However, FSIS determined it can be used in secondary products (including ground beef and hamburger) and just listed as beef.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 02:56 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Question

Jeff,

Can you answer (b) (6) question? Is this like AMR, once it is processed and then incorporated it is no longer AMR but just 'beef'?

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 9:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Question

Hi (b) (6)

In all this discussion from FSIS about removing “pink slime” from ground beef....is this not the following true???

“Pink Slime” is Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB)

According to § 319.15(a), chopped beef and ground beef cannot contain LFTB.

According to § 319.15(b), hamburger cannot contain LFTB.

According to § 319.15(c), beef patties can contain LFTB.

Is it not fraud to put LFTB in something and call it chopped beef, ground beef, or hamburger.

(b) (6) Consumer Safety Officer  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, Policy Development Division  
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building  
1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260  
Omaha NE 68102-5908

(b) (6)

*Submit your questions to...*

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: RE: Weekly Report to the President - March 27  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 2:57:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [Weekly Report to the President - March 27, 2012.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

Hi Carol,

Hope your busy day is going well! Don't mean to bug you, just checking to see if you started reviewing the report.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:02 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Weekly Report to the President - March 27  
**Importance:** High

Hi Carol,

This week's President report is attached for your review/clearance.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) *fsis.usda.gov*

**Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>**



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: re: Pink Slime I respectfully request that all Pink Slime products be removed as...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:00:02 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:55 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: re: Pink Slime I respectfully request that all Pink Slime products be removed as...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@cmcast.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120315-000005

**Summary:** re: Pink Slime I respectfully request that all Pink Slime products be removed as...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/15/2012 07:18 AM

**Last Updated:** 03/15/2012 07:18 AM

**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/15/2012 07:18 AM

re: Pink Slime

I respectfully request that all Pink Slime products be removed as filler from our food supply.

Please take on the motto of other countries "It has not been proven to be safe" vs the USA motto "It has not been proven to cause harm" Lets be the example for the world vs the careless country.

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 4:34:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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I'm not sure if I sent this or not. Given the evacuation at this time, I've been still trying to catch up with meetings.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)



Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basis/index.html>

---

**From:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:55 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Nintemann, Terri - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

The products have never been subject to FSIS Salmonella testing, but in the 2 years of O157 testing, FY10-11, there have been no O157 positives in 51 samples. ODIFP is checking to see whether we have the AMS testing results.

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:46 PM  
**To:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

I think it is appropriate to say that at one time USDA was of the understanding that the lethality treatment being applied to the product was sufficient to eliminate E. coli O157:H7 and Salmonella. At some point in time, the establishment chose to lessen the lethality treatment, achieving only a pathogen reduction (not elimination) treatment. At that point, AMS found positives. In addition, FSIS began testing for E. coli O157:H7. It is my understanding that we never found E. coli O157:H7 in any subsequent samples.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (b) (6) -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

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**From:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:33 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Checking in on this – we have a meeting with OSEC this afternoon to discuss general next steps on LFTB.

Thanks,  
Adela

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:12 AM  
**To:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Thanks. We'll work with appropriate program offices to pull something together – I'm assuming we'll want it for Jerry Hagstrom today.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:09 AM  
**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

I don't think we ever developed talking points to respond to the BPI Moss story. But we need to – looping in Carol. What is our response to those data findings? They are a couple of years old now. BPI's response in the article is essentially "we're not perfect" and that their testing was more likely to find contamination.

Here's the link to the story: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/31/us/31meat.html?pagewanted=all>

---

**From:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:22 AM  
**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

We removed that exemption in 2009, though- we should have data, right?

---

**From:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:21 AM  
**To:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

We (FSIS) have not been sampling this product--it has an exemption. It could refer to AMS or some other sampling program. We'll find out.

David Goldman, MD, MPH  
Assistant Administrator  
USDA-FSIS-OPHS  
202-720-2644

-----  
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

---

**From:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:04 AM  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

? Pls advise

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:00 AM  
**To:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

What 2009 report is he referring to that found higher levels of salmonella?

---

**From:** DeJong, Justin - OC  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 10:17 PM  
**To:** Baenig, Brian - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Cc:** Paul, Matt - OC  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

flagging.

---

**From:** Hagstrom, Jerry [mailto:(b) (6)@nationaljournal.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 10:14 PM  
**To:** DeJong, Justin - OC  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

I will write about this Tuesday, Tell me if you want to react to this.

---

**From:** Helling, Andrea (Tester) [mailto:Andrea\_Helling@tester.senate.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 05:00 PM  
**Subject:** RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MARCH 19, 2012



**Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not ‘pink slime’**  
*Senator questions food product’s possible long-term health effects*

(U.S. SENATE) – Senator Jon Tester is calling on the USDA to take “pink slime” off school lunch menus – and replace it with high-quality Montana beef.

While the USDA recently announced plans to give schools a ground beef option that doesn’t use “pink slime,” the agency continued with plans to purchase seven million pounds of the highly processed food product – even as fast food chains like McDonalds pull it from their shelves.

“Pink slime” is a ground beef filler treated with ammonia. The USDA considers it to be safe, but a 2009 report found that it was four times more likely to test positive for salmonella than traditional ground beef.

Tester says too many questions remain about “pink slime” to serve it to children.

“It is tone deaf and inappropriate to purchase a large quantity of this product to feed children even as it is decisively rejected by consumers,” Tester wrote Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “The food that we provide our children should not be over-processed waste, and the quality of the meat created by the process has been called into question.”

Tester also wants the USDA to allow schools to replace “pink slime” with local foods – like Montana beef. Tester’s *Local Food, Farms and Jobs Act* gives schools the flexibility needed to use their USDA commodity dollars on locally-grown foods.

“Montana produces the best beef in the world,” Tester told Vilsack. “Rather than doubling down on hyper-processed products like ‘pink slime,’ USDA should be looking to improve students’ meals and local economies at the same time.”

Tester is working to include his bill in the upcoming Farm Bill. It is available online [HERE](#).

Text of Tester’s letter to Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack is available below and online [HERE](#).

###

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue  
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

In the past week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been the target of significant concerns over the agency’s choice to procure seven million pounds of a highly processed product known as “lean finely textured beef.” This product, commonly known as “pink slime,” has met resistance from parents and consumer advocates. I share their belief that trimmings treated with ammonia are not what consumers expect when they are served ground beef.

While I appreciate the USDA allowing schools for the first time to proactively choose not to use products containing “pink slime,” I remain concerned that USDA considers it appropriate to serve it at all. While the USDA continues to insist that “pink slime” is not dangerous for consumers, I question the low standards such a statement endorses. I am concerned that these standards permit the use of harsh chemicals to treat beef trimmings despite the fact that the effectiveness of this treatment, the safety of the processed trimmings, and the quality of the meat created by the process have all been called into question.

In recent months, many national restaurant chains have responded to consumers' rejection of "pink slime" by eliminating it from their products. These restaurants recognize that consumers have growing concerns about and distaste for "pink slime." It is tone deaf and inappropriate to purchase a large quantity of this product to feed children even as it is decisively rejected by consumers. The food that we provide our children should not be over-processed waste, it should be wholesome, high-quality food to nourish their growing bodies and minds.

I would also mention that Montana produces the best beef in the world, but school nutrition officials who wish to use their USDA commodity dollars to procure food locally are unable to do so. That is one of the reasons several other senators and I introduced the Local Food, Farms and Jobs Act, which would allow schools to use their commodity dollars to incorporate fresh local meat and produce into students' meals. Rather than doubling down on hyper-processed products like "pink slime," USDA should be looking for ideas, like the Local Food, Farms and Jobs Act, to improve students' meals and local economies at the same time. This is the quality food we should be providing our children. I appreciate your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,  
(s)  
Senator Jon Tester

-30-

**Contact:** Andrea Helling or Dan Malessa - (202) 228-0371

**From:** [DeJong, Justin - OC](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Report  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 12:32:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [Ground Beef Specification Review Timeline 2012-02-02.docx](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

See attached. Might be helpful on pink slime.

**Justin DeJong**

Deputy Director, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.690.0548  
USDA Cell: 202.251.3309  
[justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov](mailto:justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov)  
<http://www.usda.gov>

*Stay Connected with USDA:*



---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 4:02 PM  
**To:** DeJong, Justin; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Cc:** Lavallee, Aaron; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) (FNS)  
**Subject:** RE: Report

Sorry about that. We sent it up last week but it must have been lost in the shuffle. It is attached.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** DeJong, Justin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 2:55 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; (b) (6) - AMS; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Cc:** Lavallee, Aaron  
**Subject:** Report

Hi all,

On the "pink slime" convos last week, there was some discussion about reports that have validated the safety of our beef product for NSLP. Checking in to see if someone can point me to these?



**Justin DeJong**

Deputy Director, Office of Communications

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office Direct: 202.690.0548

USDA Cell: 202.251.3309

[justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov](mailto:justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov)

<http://www.usda.gov>

*Stay Connected with USDA:*



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:39:43 AM

---

To All,

There are occasions when correspondent will reply back even when I say not to reply to this mailbox. I normally just ignore their reply backs after I read them but I thought that this might be something that you might want to look into. Thanks

---

**From:** Bruce A. Hellmer, P.E. [mailto:(b) (6)@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:26 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

Thank you for the information. However, the letter from Daniel L. Engeljohn, Ph.D. dated March 29, 2012 is in conflicts with the policy he referenced.

Engeljohn wrote:

*FSIS policy would not prohibit the use of the claim "fresh" on ground beef in which lean finely textured beef is used as an ingredient.*

From USDA Food Standards and Labeling policy book:

*FRESH," "NOT FROZEN" AND SIMILAR TERMS WHEN LABELING MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS:*

*The word —fresh" may not be used to describe:*

...

*7. Any product treated with an antimicrobial substance or irradiated.*

...

I suggest that "Pink Slime" fumigated with poisonous ammonia gas to kill antimicrobials should be considered a "*product treated with an antimicrobial substance*".

I request a reply addressing this apparent conflict.

Bruce A. Hellmer

(b) (6)  
Lee's Summit, MO. 64086

(b) (6)  
(b) (6) [hotmail.com](mailto:(b) (6)@hotmail.com)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:28 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

\*\*\*\*PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MAILBOX\*\*\*\*

Dear Sir or Madam:

Attached is the response to your email sent to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool on March 15, 2012, regarding the labeling of fresh ground beef. I hope that the response provided is very helpful to you. Thanks

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Retail - Pink Slime language  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:15:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [Silvia Holt incoming.pdf](#)  
[Silvia Holt-Pink Slime11\[1\].docx](#)

---

Here you go!!

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250

Phone (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:41 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Retail - Pink Slime language

Hi (b) (6)

FYI

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) Issues Analyst

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (202) 720-7609*

*Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)*

**From:** [Taylor, Kim - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#); [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:07:24 AM

---

FYI

-----  
Kim Taylor  
Director Web Services  
Congressional & Public Affairs  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
[kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov)  
Direct: 202.690.6188  
Office: 202.720.9113  
Mobile: 202.731.9291

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 06:16 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** OPACE/WSS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

(b) (6)

I don't remember seeing a RIMD draft Ammonium hydroxide fact sheet...I it about the "pink slime" issue? We could use a fact sheet on that.

With regard to your questions below, I need to defer to the FSIS Web Services staff (OPACE) for answers. I have copied them on this message.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Schools can choose. Why can't we?!  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 1:02:33 PM

---

[More from MomsRising.org about pink slime](#)

**(b) (6)**

*Advisory Committee Specialist*

*USDA, FSIS, OPHS, MD, NACMCF*

*Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B*

*1400 Independence Avenue, SW*

*Washington, DC 20250*

*Office:* (b) (6)

*Fax:* 202-690-6364

*Email:* (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Monifa, MomsRising.org [mailto:info@momsrising.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 12:56 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Schools can choose. Why can't we?!

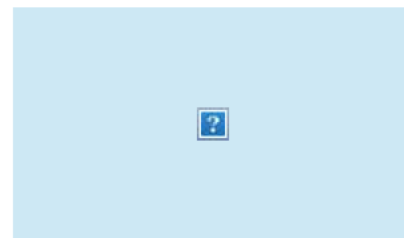


## Schools can choose. Why can't we?

Dear (b) (6)

Last week thousands of MomsRising moms and dads expressed concern about pink slime. Pink Slime is a food additive made from spare beef trimmings that's treated with ammonium hydroxide to kill off E. Coli, salmonella, and other possible bacteria, and is in grocery stores, cafeterias, and restaurants across the nation.[1] In fact, one article noted, "ABC cited a former U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist in saying that 70% of supermarket ground beef contained the additive." [2]

MomsRising members weren't the only ones speaking up. Petitions and letters from hundreds of thousands of people all over the country pressured policy makers to do something to make sure that we all have access to the healthiest foods as well as information on labels to inform what we serve our families. [3]



Urge USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide not to buy it!

Families deserve to eat high quality food!



**Find Us**



When we speak loud enough and in large enough numbers, leaders listen. On Friday, The USDA made a decision to allow schools to refuse pink slime as part of their federally subsidized school lunch programs. Schools across the country will be able to work with parents to determine whether or not to purchase and serve pink slime. [4]

If schools can decide what to feed our children, why can't we?

\*Join us in urging THE USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least to require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide not to buy it in the stores:

[Take Action!](#)

Our families deserve to eat high quality foods--and pink slime is most definitely NOT on our list of good eats.

When you do take action via the above link, you'll send an important message to USDA and FDA that moms and dads are paying close attention to the food our children and families eat from the school cafeteria to the supermarket.

Why?

Our children are facing increasing health risks related to their diets. As parents, we make every effort to feed them quality, wholesome foods but we can't do that if we don't even know what's in the products we buy. It's time to take pink slime off of the menu and off of grocery store shelves--or at least require it to be listed on food labels so moms and dads can decide what's in the best interest of their families.

With children facing many health problems linked to poor nutrition, it's time to take pink slime off the grocery store shelves and off the menus.

**\*Moms and dads are paying attention! \*Join us in urging USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least to require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide not to buy it in the stores:**

**<http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3202.398211.P12B7d&t=5>**

What exactly is this "slime"? The slime consists of beef by-products: cow intestines, connective tissue, and other parts that are not used in traditional beef cuts. And, don't forget the ammonia! [5]

Yuck! Please take a moment to sign on--and to forward this email to friends (and post the action link on your Facebook page) so others can sign on too.

**<http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3202.398211.P12B7d&t=7>**

Together we're a powerful force for women and families,

-- Monifa, Donna and the whole MomsRising team

P.S. Join us this Thursday for a live Tweetchat from the White House about health care and health care reform! To join us "live," just follow @MomsRising on Twitter starting at 11:00am PST/ 2:00pm EST on Thursday, March 22nd. We'll be using this hashtag #ACAwhchat on Twitter.

[1] **[ABC News](#)**

[2] **[Ibid](#)**

[3] **[Huffington Post](#)**

[4] **[LA Times](#)**

[5] **[USA Today](#)**



Like what we're doing? **[Donate: We're a bootstrapped, low overhead, mom run organization.](#)** Your donations make the work of MomsRising.org possible -- and we deeply appreciate your support. Every little bit counts.

**[MomsRising.org](http://MomsRising.org)**



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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Scientist who coined Pink Slime reluctant whistleblower | Reuters  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:54:02 PM

---

Thought this might interest you.

(b) (6), DVM  
Senior Equivalence Officer  
IES, OIA, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 4864 South Bldg, Mailstop 3729  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ogundipe, AJ - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:53 PM  
**To:** FSIS - OIA/IES; FSIS - OIA/IAS  
**Subject:** Scientist who coined Pink Slime reluctant whistleblower | Reuters

This article is about Gerald Zirntein:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/25/us-food-slime-scientist-idUSBRE82N0AG20120325>

**From:** [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Senate Ag Minority Briefing  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:03:20 PM

---

Just FYI - I checked with Ken Petersen, and he says there's nothing new beyond what you already know about the two former inspectors -

Christopher Gould  
Congressional & Public Affairs Office  
USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service  
202-690-4546

(b) (6) (cell)

---

**From:** Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:56 AM  
**To:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Senate Ag Minority Briefing

Nothing new on the operations side

---

**From:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:29 AM  
**To:** Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Senate Ag Minority Briefing

OK, he said he wanted to know if there's anything new on them.

Christopher Gould  
Congressional & Public Affairs Office  
USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service  
202-690-4546

(b) (6) (cell)

---

**From:** Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:25 AM  
**To:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Senate Ag Minority Briefing

Actually he knows this topic well. They are also doing other stec sampling.

---

**From:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:59 AM  
**To:** Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Senate Ag Minority Briefing

Ken:

Phil is going to need to be on a multi-agency conference call with Senate Ag Committee minority staff later on today, and I wanted to make sure he's well prepared if Gerald Zirnstein or Carl Custer come up. We don't have any talkers here at CPAO on that aspect; are there any words of wisdom you might be able to share? It's OK if you want to talk with Phil directly about it, just let me know. Quick background and a link to the story below.

**Gerald Zirnstein** who, in an USDA memo, first coined the term "pink slime" and is now coming forward to say he won't buy it. "It's economic fraud," he told ABC News. "It's not fresh ground beef. ... It's a cheap substitute being added in." Zirnstein and his fellow USDA scientist, **Carl Custer**, both warned against using what the industry calls "lean finely textured beef," widely known now as "pink slime," but their government bosses overruled them.

Story here:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

Thanks –

Christopher Gould

Congressional & Public Affairs Office

USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service

202-690-4546 (desk)

(b) (6) (cell)

202-720-5704 (fax)

Be Food Safe:

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Setting the Record Straight on Beef  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:33:57 PM

---

fyi

---

**From:** Wilkins, Stephanie - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) FSIS; (b) (6) Judy - FSIS; (b) (6) FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Setting the Record Straight on Beef

Hi Everyone,

Please see below. Dr. Hagen addresses the issue of "Pink Slime" in beef.

*Stephanie J. Wilkins*

Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Outreach, Employee Education and Training  
14th & Independence Ave. SW, Rm. 2936, So. Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20250  
202-205-2954 (office)  
202-365-0612 (Blackberry)  
202-690-2040 (fax)  
stephanie.wilkins@fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:17 PM  
**To:** FSIS - FSIS Management Council  
**Cc:** FSIS - OPACE/Managers  
**Subject:** FW: Setting the Record Straight on Beef

I wanted to be sure that you are aware of a blog that was pushed out by OC this morning authored by Dr. Hagen. Please click on the link below.

*Carol Blake*

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301

Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)



Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** USDA Office of Communications [mailto:usda@public.govdelivery.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:03 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** Setting the Record Straight on Beef

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

You are subscribed to USDA Blog for USDA Office of Communications.

## [Setting the Record Straight on Beef](#)

03/22/2012 11:42 AM EDT

As the head of USDA's public health agency, I am responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe for American families. I approach this role not only as a food safety expert and a physician, but also as a mother. And I want to address the national [...]



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This email was sent to carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov using GovDelivery, on behalf of: USDA Office of Communications · 1400 Independence Ave SW · Washington DC 20250



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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 21-12 Randomly Selecting Product to be Sampled Under the Beef Manufacturing Trimmings (MT50) Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 3:43:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [21-12.pdf](#)  
[FSIS Notice 21-12 Randomly Selecting Product to be Sampled Under the Beef Manufacturing Trimmings MT50 Sampling Program.doc](#)

---

Pre-Pink Slime testing. Hope they have post-pink slime as well. See if it really works.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector-Relief

Plover, WI Circuit 45-21 (Golden Sand)

N4419 Clear Lake Road

Medford, WI 54451-8955

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 21-12 Randomly Selecting Product to be Sampled Under the Beef Manufacturing Trimmings (MT50) Program  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 6:25:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [21-12.pdf](#)  
[FSIS Notice 21-12 Randomly Selecting Product to be Sampled Under the Beef Manufacturing Trimmings MT50 Sampling Program.doc](#)

---

Is this **Pink Slime?**

(b) (6)

(b) (6), Relief CSI

Est. 09573

Pittsburgh Circuit



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:59:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [22-12.pdf](#)  
[FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program.doc](#)

---

I don't have time to read this cause it will put me over the 8 hour limit but I know you guys did and I wanted to know if they mentioned how much of the "pink slime" was to be included in the sample???

**From:** [Reeder, Robert - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Nelson, Ron - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:05:44 AM

---

**The article mentions the Hyrum, UT JBS plant and Nestles.**

*Robert Reeder Jr., DVM*

*Denver DDM*

USDA FSIS OFO Denver District  
Denver Federal Center  
P.O. Box 25387, Bldg. 45  
Denver, CO 80225-0387  
(303) 236-9788 Office  
(303) 236-9794 Fax  
(509) 994-4201 (Blackberry)  
[Robert.Reeder@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Robert.Reeder@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:36 AM  
**To:** FSIS - FO/DO15/Front Line Supervisors  
**Cc:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS; Reeder, Robert - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Slime

FYI, interesting article.

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

BB# (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:23 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Slime

***This aired last night on ABC channel 4 in SLC. They even implicated Stouffers.***

**[http://www.abc4.com/content/news/top\\_stories/story/Pink-Slime-The-Inside-Story/vm2n3PWs60uax36dzhsNGQ.csp](http://www.abc4.com/content/news/top_stories/story/Pink-Slime-The-Inside-Story/vm2n3PWs60uax36dzhsNGQ.csp)**

(b) (6)

***Relief CSI***

***SLC Circuit***

(b) (6)

***To achieve, you need thought. You have to know what you are doing and that's real power.***

***Ayn Rand***

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: So why doesn't the USDA require that labels on ground beef include the fact that...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:55:05 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:03 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: So why doesn't the USDA require that labels on ground beef include the fact that...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@hotmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120312-000065

**Summary:** So why doesn't the USDA require that labels on ground beef include the fact that...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/12/2012 09:16 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 09:16 PM

**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/12/2012 09:16 PM

So why doesn't the USDA require that labels on ground beef include the fact that it contains this disgusting "pink slime" filler that many of us just do not want to eat?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6)  
- FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) -  
FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Statement for Hotline callers interested in ammoniated beef product used in ground beef

Hotline staff:

Please see below to review information we got recently regarding ‘ammoniated beef products used in ground beef:’

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 11:42 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** Statement for Hotline callers interested in ammoniated beef product used in ground beef

The statement below can verbally be distributed to those calling the Hotline regarding the ammoniated beef product that has been the topic of recent news stories. Please note the “verbal” part of that! Carol isn’t stoked about a particular phrase contained in the statement, so she doesn’t want it emailed around. Thanks!

“USDA is focused on reducing foodborne illness and ensuring that Americans have safe food to eat. Additionally, food served to our nation’s schoolchildren must meet the highest standards for food safety and is subject to stringent testing before being allowed to enter schools. And that includes the beef product that has been the focus of recent news stories. Several government agencies – including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture – have studied thoroughly the use of ammonia hydroxide, which is different than household ammonia, and found that it is safe to use in foods and is effective in reducing foodborne pathogens, or bacteria that can be present in meats and make people ill. Ammonia hydroxide is used as a treatment during the production process, and it is chemically altered when infused into meat, leaving no measurable residue. Therefore, it does not pose a threat to humans. Given that it is harmless, and that it reduces the possibility of people getting ill from the beef they are consuming, the use of ammonia hydroxide is considered safe and suitable as part of the company’s production process.”

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>



**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**Cc:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Summary of Hotline inquiries related to beef processing using ammonium hydroxide  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:15:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [Pink Slime March 2012.docx](#)  
[Inquiries about beef processing using ammonium hydroxide.docx](#)

---

Aaron,

Just FYI, FSIS asked the hotline staff to try and keep a running tally of inquiries on our favorite topic today and yesterday. Report from yesterday is here, and today's is below.  
Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:06 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Summary of Hotline inquiries related to beef processing using ammonium hydroxide

Hi Brian,

Here's a summary of incidents received by the Hotline. The total number of inquiries is less today than yesterday, at least so far.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Take a look at this  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 8:27:25 AM

---

If you're interested, the link below should take you to pink slime story. I enjoyed the part of story where they said the price would go up or they would have to "import trimmings" if they can't use pink slime. Ya, like that's something new.

Inspector (b) (6)  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety Inspection Service  
Office of International Affairs  
Import Inspection Division  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) @verizon.net [mailto:(b) (6) @verizon.net]  
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 5:43 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Take a look at this

Hi,

more pink slime

I thought you'd like this:

<http://soc.li/0wxr7iS>

---

This email is a direct message from a friend who wants to share an item of interest with you.

This email message is powered by Gigya's sharing technology. If you no longer wish to receive messages that are sent via Gigya's service, please click here <[http://www.gigya.com/site/landing.aspx?ut=dBF1I5RbVxUc8nBdc3bMDT7hmmrIvgen1wCG\\_dxqadJhAAWkNZSIhV-1DGKZvwZ0-DQUg5JS8Y61ukrjwOp8p81S9pP6R\\_BhovjemyHtbA0dAsx-PMuL2zIosIac-rUvj3ITh1WL6rg0IY1bFO3pdt1xwywwddkLnBQzfon11KP1vwjIOqGjXs\\_iu2h8CdJQARL5HJwzkLKJ57a27gSfNYqKXrQNvyGj2HVD9QAHHasQ6tOUNRSI914NfkazIt5B-7jfqRUJrCi3TIRZQIUeKJVQyIW0-tqYJ0XbPWgR4D6snlewbxyY2u0hd5InC\\_hqIFXrH2czyYRhn6cR17vDS60Y11yWMzNZ4unlBLPUAUK.>](http://www.gigya.com/site/landing.aspx?ut=dBF1I5RbVxUc8nBdc3bMDT7hmmrIvgen1wCG_dxqadJhAAWkNZSIhV-1DGKZvwZ0-DQUg5JS8Y61ukrjwOp8p81S9pP6R_BhovjemyHtbA0dAsx-PMuL2zIosIac-rUvj3ITh1WL6rg0IY1bFO3pdt1xwywwddkLnBQzfon11KP1vwjIOqGjXs_iu2h8CdJQARL5HJwzkLKJ57a27gSfNYqKXrQNvyGj2HVD9QAHHasQ6tOUNRSI914NfkazIt5B-7jfqRUJrCi3TIRZQIUeKJVQyIW0-tqYJ0XbPWgR4D6snlewbxyY2u0hd5InC_hqIFXrH2czyYRhn6cR17vDS60Y11yWMzNZ4unlBLPUAUK.>)> to remove your email address.

7jfqRUJrCi3TIRZQIUeKJVQyIW0-tqYJ0XbPWgR4D6snlewbxyY2u0hd5InC\_hqIFXrH2czyYRhn6cR17vDS60Y11yWMzNZ4unlBLPUAUK.>

7jfqRUJrCi3TIRZQIUeKJVQyIW0-tqYJ0XbPWgR4D6snlewbxyY2u0hd5InC\_hqIFXrH2czyYRhn6cR17vDS60Y11yWMzNZ4unlBLPUAUK.>

Gigya Inc., 1975 Landings Dr., Mountain View, CA 94043.

From:  
To:

(b) (6) [DIA]

(b) (6)

Subject: FW: The Myth of Pink Slime  
Date: Monday, March 12, 2012 3:53:48 PM

---

**From:** Nancy Degner [mailto:(b) (6)@iabeef.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:14 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) [DIA]  
**Subject:** The Myth of Pink Slime

(b) (6)

Could you forward this to the Food Safety Task Force members?

Nancy

As you have probably seen in the news over the past four days a beef product called "Lean Finely Textured Beef" has been "pink slimed" in the media, particularly ABC News, which ran segments Wednesday, Thursday and Friday on the evening news. The ABC News segments have driven an enormous amount of social media coverage (and hysteria) in prominent blogs and Twitter.

### **What is Lean Finely Textured Beef?**

Lean finely textured beef (LFTB) is beef that is a category of beef products that uses high technology food processing equipment to separate lean meat from fat trimmings. This process yields an additional 10-12 pounds of lean, nutritious beef from every beef animal that can be added to other ground beef products. It's being erroneously reported that this product is salvage meat, that it's from trimmings scooped off the floor of packing plants, that it's "filler" that is substandard in nutrition and safety and more. This is simply not true.

Ammonium hydroxide is added to ground beef in this process to reduce the overall fat content without compromising flavor. It also has some degree of anti-microbial effect. Ammonium hydroxide is also used in a variety of other processed foods such as baked goods, gelatins and puddings, cheeses, and can occur naturally in foods.

The Beef Industry Safety Summit was held last week with Dr. H. Russell Cross, Professor and Head of Department of Animal Science, Texas A&M University, in attendance. Dr. Cross was the Administrator of the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) at the time of its approval. He feels strongly that this product and process is safe and a valuable source of nutrition at a time when we are faced with the growing challenge of producing more food with fewer resources. Below is a statement validating the safety and nutritional value of this product from Dr. Cross.

In addition to the statement from Dr. Cross, here are some good **resources** to share:

- [Food Safety News article](#) – A well-balanced Food Safety News article on lean finely textured ground beef
- [Pink Slime is a Myth Website](#) - This website is by one of the companies who makes

LFTB, Beef Products, Inc. (BPI). These BPI company videos describe the process in more detail ([http://www.youtube.com/user/BeefProductsInc?ob=0&feature=results\\_main](http://www.youtube.com/user/BeefProductsInc?ob=0&feature=results_main))

- [Fact Sheet on Lean Finely Ground Beef](#) as related to use in school lunch.
- [Engineering a Safer Burger](#) -- This Washington Post article from 2008 explains the history of the product.
- [International Food Information Council fact sheet on ammonium hydroxide](#)- In the BPI system, ammonium hydroxide is used to destroy bacteria (in another system, citric acid is used to destroy bacteria). This product is "generally recognized as safe" by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and it's used a variety of foods. The beef is not "soaked in ammonia" as many reports have claimed, but rather sprayed with a "hydrolyzed ammonia" mist to kill bacteria which then evaporates and completely dissipates. According to Dr. Cross, there is no ammonia in the final product.

Here are some additional resources from the American Meat Institute:

- [AMI's media statement](#)
- [MeatMythCrusher video](#)
- [Question and Answers document](#)

### **In Summary**

- This product is nutritionally equal to ground beef. The process has been used safely for more than 20 years to yield an additional 10-12 lbs. of lean, nutritious beef, from every beef animal.
- LFTB is produced under USDA inspection in compliance with their food safety and labeling requirements and they buy product that includes it as a component.
- USDA ground beef samples testing positive for E. coli O157:H7 have been cut in half over the past ten years while beef produced using this technology has been used at the same time.
- The product is beef and that's why it's not singled out on label as being anything other than beef (even though many media are calling it an "additive")

*Funded by The Beef Checkoff*

### **Statement From H. Russell Cross, Ph.D.**

#### **Professor and Head of Department of Animal Science, Texas A&M University**

"As Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) in the early 90s, I and my staff evaluated numerous research projects before approving lean, finely textured beef as a safe source of high-quality protein. The FSIS safety review process was and is an in-depth, science-based process that spans years, many research projects and involves many experts across all levels of the agency-and in this case, the process proved the product is safe."

"Approving lean finely textured beef as safe was the right decision, and today, it remains a safe way to meet the nutritional needs of a growing population. All beef is a good or excellent source of 10 essential nutrients including protein, iron, zinc and B-vitamins."

"Finely textured lean beef helps us meet consumer demand for safe, affordable and nutritious food."

## Nancy

Nancy Degner  
Executive Director  
Iowa Beef Industry Council  
PO Box 451  
Ames, IA 50010  
515-296-2305  
[www.iabeef.org](http://www.iabeef.org)



*New research shows that eating lean beef every day can be good for heart health by improving cholesterol levels. Learn about BOLD at [www.beefnutrition.org](http://www.beefnutrition.org).*

(b) (6)  
Iowa Dept. of Inspections & Appeals  
(b) (6) [dia@dia.iowa.gov](mailto:dia@dia.iowa.gov)  
Phone: (b) (6) /Fax: 515-242-6863

**From:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: The Pink Slime Slip  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:36:52 AM

---

Please see attached message.

Thank you,

---

**From:** Michael DeBord [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:58 PM  
**To:** ABC.WorldNews@abc.com  
**Cc:** MPH hotline.fsis@usda.gov  
**Subject:** The Pink Slime Slip

Hello,

First, I'd like to thank ABC News for making us, the public, aware of this questionable practice. I can't believe the USDA's position to keep the public uninformed as to which products contain "Pink Slime" is legal. In doing so, the USDA is implying that people in the United States haven't the right to know what they're buying or eating! It seems to me they are inadvertently setting themselves up for one of the largest Class Action Law Suits in American history. Please understand, I'm not saying there isn't a place for this product. If it's safe to eat, there are large market shares which would benefit from this economical alternative. But as an American consumer, I have the right to full content disclosure of any item I'm paying for, especially something I'm going to feed my family! And then there's the issue of Religious freedom. Certain religions forbid the consumption of organs. One could certainly argue that intestinal connective tissue is more organ than meat, and that in order to practice their religious freedoms they must know what they're buying. A tort of this magnitude could potentially list the entire U.S. population as the plaintiff..... Food for Thought?

Concerned consumer advocate,  
Michael DeBord.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: Thurston Foods  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:07:56 PM

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**From:** (b) (6) FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 04:18 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Thurston Foods

I am not aware of anything in writing that USDA can provide and it certainly not up to the CSI to market their product. I am very familiar with pink slime and do not need the link. The plant should do their own research on how best to address the situation.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:42 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Thurston Foods

After the ABC News story on pink slime last week, I suspect we may get a few inquiries like this from plants that want to assure their customers that they do not use any product that contains it. Am I correct in stating that the plant would have to issue their own statement, or is there something in writing that the USDA could provide?

In case you're not familiar with it, I will forward you the link.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Thurston Foods  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:38:52 AM

---

The plants might be able to try this approach.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:38 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Thurston Foods

Good idea, (b) (6) I'll pass that along.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Thurston Foods

I think they could ask for label approval to put a special statement on the label regarding the ammoniated beef. Just a thought.

(b) (6), DVM

USDA/FSIS Albany District Office

Albany District Case Specialist

(b) (6)

FAX 518-452-3118

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:42 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Thurston Foods

After the ABC News story on pink slime last week, I suspect we may get a few inquiries like this from plants that want to assure their customers that they do not use any product that contains it. Am I correct in stating that the plant would have to issue their own statement, or is there something in writing that the USDA could provide?

In case you're not familiar with it, I will forward you the link.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS



**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:24 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** Thurston Foods

Dr (b) (6) Thurston Foods is having lots of negative feedback from all their customers regarding the "Pink Slime" issues that have been in the media.

Would it be feasible for me to write a letter from the USDA stating that they do not use pink slime in their ground beef product which would be supported by their letter of guarantee from the supplier and daily observations of their grinding operation.

They deliver to the school systems here in Connecticut and many other institutions that are looking for something in writing regarding this.

If we were to have a letter from their one and only supplier which is a New Zealand company that states they do not use "Pink Slime" and or any other fillers in their frozen whole muscle beef would be able to provide them with such a document.

Thank-you for your help in this matter.

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - (CFL) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Today on AMA Shift: "Starbucks coloring leaves managers red-faced"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 4:16:28 PM

---

Read far enough into the article & "Pink slime" shows up with even more interesting food revelations..... Enjoy!!! TCW

---

**From:** noreply+feedproxy@google.com [mailto:noreply+feedproxy@google.com] **On Behalf Of** AMA Shift  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Today on AMA Shift: "Starbucks coloring leaves managers red-faced"

[Today on AMA Shift: "Starbucks coloring leaves managers red-faced"](#)



---

[Starbucks coloring leaves managers red-faced](#)

Posted: 27 Mar 2012 10:40 AM PDT



Starbucks has been embarrassed by the news that it uses crushed bugs to color one of its drinks. It's an object lesson in the new transparency: everyone finds out everything eventually, whether you want them to or not. Get used to it.

The fuss started with a niche website for vegetarians. "We are very, very unhappy to now report that the Strawberries & Crème Frappuccino as well as the Strawberry Smoothies (both made with soy milk) are NOT vegan," said ThisDishIsVegetarian a few days ago, after it received an email from a barista. "[The strawberry sauce we use contains 'cochineal extract'](#)... I was hoping you guys could help get the word out there so that no veg\*ns end up drinking this formerly vegan frappuccino by mistake! Thanks."

And what's cochineal? "[Cochineal is, indeed, a food additive](#) derived from an insect," wrote the blogger BugGirl. "Or, more properly, the stuff we call cochineal is a chemical extract of carminic acid from the bodies of squished female scale insects. (No actual bug 'parts' should be left in the dye.)"

Now, Starbucks is hardly alone. Cochineal has long been one of the most commonly used dyes in the world. "Cochineal is one of the few natural and water-soluble colorants that

resist degradation with time,” says Food-Info.net. “It is the most light- and heat-stable and oxidation-resistant of all the natural colorants and is even more stable than some synthetic food colors.” Discovered by the Aztecs and Mayans, it was even used as [the dye for the jackets of British redcoats](#) until the 1950s.

So it has class, it has history, and it’s natural, which is Starbucks’s explanation for why it uses it. “At Starbucks, we strive to carry products that meet a variety of dietary lifestyles and needs. We also have the goal to minimize artificial ingredients in our products. While the strawberry base isn’t a vegan product, it helps us move away from artificial dyes,” said a Starbucks spokesperson.

That hasn’t stopped a backlash. “[The report has prompted a petition](#) on Change.org that calls on Starbucks to use other natural alternatives for food coloring, including red beets, purple sweet potatoes and paprika,” reports CBS. And it comes at a time when consumers are also concerned about another food product, a type of processed meat. “Some consumers have recently been concerned with another common additive that’s found in their food, ammonia-treated lean beef tips, also known as ‘pink slime.’ The public response on the additive has prompted several grocery chains and school districts to stop carrying the product, [HealthPop](#) reported.”

Starbucks is a well-managed company that cares a lot about its corporate responsibility. “We are heading into a crucible; we’re in the midst of something that’s really going to test the conscience of the country,” CEO Howard Schultz told shareholders last week, as reported by the Seattle Times. “[It’s a test we will not pass by being bystanders.](#)” He highlighted the company’s [annual global responsibility report](#).

Schultz is also a communicator to his core. “A highly able executive in virtually every dimension of his business, Schultz also innately understood from the beginning that successfully [managing his business depended on successfully managing his story](#),” said Business Insider.

People just don’t realize what goes into their food, and the disgust triggered by something like this is irrational and irritating to insiders and experts. Here’s one blogger [speaking about Pink slime, for example](#): “For those revolted by these contents, or even the thought of anything referred to as ‘slime’ crossing their plates... consider [Jell-O](#). The packaging only lists a single ingredient, which reads: gelatin. If you were to tell a child that “gummy worms” and other wobbly treats were made from steamed animal bones, would they really want dessert?”

“Surely, most people realize that we set our table every day thanks to the labors of other life forms: honey, from bee regurgitation, yogurt, from bacterial metabolism, and multiple cheeses from calf enzymes (rennets) or *via* fungal decomposition.”

None of this helps. Consumers want to know about their products and they have high expectations; difficult surprises upset them. Radical transparency—about ingredients, sourcing, supply chains, workers conditions, you name it—is becoming the norm. Apple, for example, is much beloved by customers, but they still got mad when they discovered problems with the company’s suppliers in China. As a result, [the company began auditing its suppliers and opened up to external scrutiny](#).

What can you do? Make your product differently? Get your story out first? Involve

consumers more directly? Protect your secrets better? All of the above, but recognize that none of these may help when your company is in the public eye. Untrue allegations can be just as damaging as real ones if customers believe them and they get traction. The old ways of dealing with these issues —“It’s none of your business. Everyone else does it. You’ve misunderstood. Everyone knew that already. Listen to my version”—don’t fly any more.



---

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Google Inc., 20 West Kinzie, Chicago IL USA 60610

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Top 8 Myths of "Pink Slime" « Get the facts about lean beef trim  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:06:47 AM

---

fyi

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Top 8 Myths of "Pink Slime" « Get the facts about lean beef trim

Thanks Paul, this has been in the new a lot lately!! Hope you're enjoying this nice weather? If you see my brother from a different mother, tell him hi for me!!!

(b) (6) CSI/IIC  
Patrol # 1  
HQ- Farmland Foods  
Plant (b) (6)  
USDA (b) (6)  
E-mail - (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:38 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Top 8 Myths of "Pink Slime" « Get the facts about lean beef trim

Subject: Top 8 Myths of "Pink Slime" « Get the facts about lean beef trim

<http://beefisbeef.com/2012/03/15/top-7-myths-of-pink-slime/>

**From:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: TPs for review  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:07:50 AM  
**Attachments:** [Talking Points on New Labeling Option for Lean Finely Textured Beef.docx](#)

---

My edits are in tracked change in the document

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (202) 368-5457 -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 10:49 AM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** TPs for review

Please review when you have a moment. Thanks!

**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#); [McIntire, Richard - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: TPs on Lean Finely Text Beef  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:34:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

---

FYI.

Neil Gaffney  
*Press Officer*  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460  
[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
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<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

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**From:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:34 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - RD, Washington, DC; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: TPs on Lean Finely Text Beef

Here is what Dr. Hagen is using today

- Lean Finely Textured Beef meets the same rigorous safety standards as all of the products we regulate.
- We stand behind the mark of federal inspection and what that means: our employees verify the safety of meat and poultry products every day in over 6,000 federally regulated establishments.
- BPI is one of those meat products that receive the mark of inspection. The meat has been produced in establishments that meet the standards set out in our laws and regulations for safe food production.
- My role as the Under Secretary for Food Safety is to set the policies of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. Because of our regulatory function, it would be inappropriate for us to endorse or promote a particular product or process. However, when asked, we are on record assuring the American people that this product meets the same food safety standards as all of the meat and poultry products produced in federally regulated establishments.

- USDA's role is larger than the food safety portfolio. The marketing and nutrition agencies at USDA are responsible for purchasing food for and administering the school lunch program.
- The government's role in this debate on LFTB has been to remind Americans that this product is produced safely, and to provide school districts with a choice to purchase LFTB.
- The public outcry about this product has never been about safety, it has been about how LFTB is produced and consumer perceptions. Our food choices can be very personal, and we are fortunate that when we walk into a grocery store, we can choose from a variety of products.
- Speaking on behalf of the food safety agency at USDA, I hope that we can continue to engage and inform the public on what we do to protect Americans from foodborne illness.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - RD, Washington, DC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:17 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: TPs on Lean Finely Text Beef

Hi everyone,

Checking in—Any TPs the Administrator can use if/when he gets asked about lean finely textured beef aka pink slime? Sorry for the rush, but I do need those by late tomorrow morning. Thanks!

--

(b) (6)  
 Rural Utilities Service  
 (b) (6)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - RD, Washington, DC; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: TPs on Lean Finely Text Beef

Good morning,

Aaron Lavallee in OC is point person on the Department's talking points on this product. I've CCed



him on this email so you can get the correct and complete TPs....

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - RD, Washington, DC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:49 AM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** TPs on Lean Finely Text Beef

Good morning,

(b) (6) from Lapas suggested I get in touch with you. Rural Utilities Service Administrator Jonathan Adelstein will be traveling to Florida next week and he will be doing two roundtables and talking to lots of press (hopefully!). I have a sinking feeling that someone is going to bring up Lean Finely Textured Beef (aka "pink slime") and I'd like him to have some talking points he can use. Can you shoot something my way?

Thanks so much,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) | Special Assistant  
Rural Utilities Service | Rural Development  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W. | Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (b) (6) | Mobile: (b) (6)  
[www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov)



"Committed to the future of rural communities"  
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From:  
To:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: FW: Update - beef  
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:28:13 AM  
Attachments: [Talking Points on LFTB FINAL 3 28 12.doc](#)

---

FYI, thank you, (b) (6)

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**From:** AGRI  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:56 AM  
**To:** Vande Hoef, Dustin; Johnson, Jay; Johnson, Gary  
**Subject:** FW: Update - beef

**From:** Nancy Degner [mailto:nancy@iabeef.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:53 PM  
**To:** AGRI; (b) (6)

(b) (6)

**Subject:** Update on several items - please read

IBIC and CBB directors,

As you probably heard, the Lean Finely Textured Beef issue is still in the news:

- We had several interviews yesterday – the concern for plant closings and impact on the cattle industry created the story in Iowa.
- The Des Moines Register covered the story – front page this morning.  
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20120328/BUSINESS/303280046/What-the-end-of-pink-slime-means-to-you>
- Sioux City and Waterloo have had lots of coverage due to BPI plants in those locations.
- Attached is the updated Talking Points on the “P \_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_” issue. If you have not checked any of the video clips, please do. The current overall website is now [www.BeefIsBeef.com](http://www.BeefIsBeef.com)
- Dr. Oz has supposedly taped a segment on the product ... we have not heard when it will be shown.
- Governor Branstad has invited fellow governors from Texas, Nebraska, S. Dakota and Kansas to tour the BPI plant in Dakota City and hold a press conference. Elaine and I are planning on attending – hopefully not speaking. They are planning on having safety experts at the news conference.
- We have had additional strategy calls from the Issues Management Team at NCBA. It is their suggestion to let the meat science, microbiologists, processing plant experts speak on the safety of the product. The beef industry / producers can address cattle supplies, price of beef, etc.
- As I write this, Governor Branstad and Secretary Vilsack will be having a press conference at the Capitol this afternoon. *USDA Sec Vilsack and Gov. Branstad holding joint press conf today at 3p to clarify facts regarding BPI's lean finely textured beef.*

*The press conference can be seen live here: <https://governor.iowa.gov/?p=5069>.*

- Complete list of LFTB Resources:
  - \* Expert [video](#) with Dr. Russell Cross
  - \* Feedyard Foodie [Expert Interview](#) with Dr. Russell Cross
  - \* [USDA Fact Sheet](#) on "pink slime"
  - \* [Beef Products, Inc. website](#) responding to common myths about "pink slime"
  - \* [Beef Products, Inc. videos](#) on how they make lean finely textured beef
  - \* [International Food Information Council \(IFIC\) Fact Sheet](#) on the use of Ammonia Hydroxide to make lean finely textured beef
  - \* [AMI MeatMythCrusher video](#) on lean finely textured beef
  - \* [AMI question and answer document](#) on lean finely textured beef
  - \* [Food Safety News article](#) on safety of lean finely textured beef
  - \* [Food Safety News article](#) by Bill Marler
  - \* [Food Safety News article](#) by Nancy Donley

**NCBA looking for historical photos – if you bring them to the IBIC Board Meeting we can scan them for you!**

Every day we walk our halls, and every day we want to remember the great people and ranches that have shaped the beef industry. During the SBC Director and Staff Orientation, participants toured the office and learned about the work going on to decorate our hallways with pictures and murals depicting who we are. For one of these projects, we are seeking [black and white photos](#) of centennial and legacy ranches from our members. Photos will be included in one of the mural projects in the Denver office, providing a wonderful historical tribute, and also be shared in a future issue of National Cattlemen. Photos may be submitted electronically to: [MemberNews@beef.org](mailto:MemberNews@beef.org) or mailed to National Cattlemen, 9110 East Nichols Avenue, Suite 300, Centennial, CO, 80112, attention of John Robinson. Please include your name, relationship with people in the photo and their names (Example: "My great grandparents-William and Ester Johnson"), approximate year the photo was taken, and your state and county location.

## Nancy

Nancy Degner  
Executive Director  
Iowa Beef Industry Council  
PO Box 451  
Ames, IA 50010  
515-296-2305  
[www.iabeef.org](http://www.iabeef.org)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Update  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:41:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [Customer letter Update.docx](#)  
[Get the Facts 3-15.pdf](#)

---

FYI, Now that McDonalds is not going to use this product(BPI) in their burgers since it was call pink slime.

---

**From:** Gary Bjornberg [mailto:(b) (6)@wwjmeat.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:25 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Update

**Gary Bjornberg**

Director of Operations  
WW Johnson Meat Company  
612-746-0616 Direct  
(b) (6) Cell

---

**From:** Mike Hesse [mailto:(b) (6)@beefproducts.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:14 PM  
**To:** Administrator of WWJMeat; (b) (6); Gary Bjornberg  
**Subject:** Update

(b) (6) (b) (6) and Gary,

I wanted to make you aware that we are producing B-Roll footage of our product (narrated by BPI's QA Director Craig Letch) for National and Local media. This will be to them tonight or first thing in the morning. This is a great way to get footage of our products with accurate descriptions out to the media. Attached is an update on where we stand and next steps going forward with the media. Also attached is a customer poster with quick information on Boneless Lean Beef Trimmings (some of our customers requested this information). Please let us know if you need anything else.

Thanks,  
Mike

<<...>> <<...>>

**Mike Hesse** 891 Two Rivers Drive ~ Dakota Dunes, SD 57049  
P 605 .217 .8016 C 712 .490. 8188 E (b) (6) [@beefproducts.com](mailto:(b) (6)@beefproducts.com)

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Alexander, Bruce - FNS](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FNS](#)  
**Cc:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Daniel, Jean - FNS](#); [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT - Seattle TV station report and question from States re pink slime in USDA Foods  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 6:29:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [Fw Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding pink slime msg.msg](#)

---

**(b) (6)**

Statement issued by FSIS to media team.

Dirk

Do you have any talking points we can provide to our Under Secretary, he's in WA on Monday afternoon?

Bruce

**Bruce C. Alexander**  
**Director, Communications & Governmental Affairs**  
**U.S. Department of Agriculture - Food & Nutrition Service**  
**3101 Park Center Drive**  
**Alexandria, VA 22302**  
**(703) 305-2281 (office)**  
**[Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov)**

---

**From:** Lucas, Richard - FNS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 6:04 PM  
**To:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS  
**Cc:** Christenson, Daniel; Brayboy, Stacey - FNS; Kriviski, Diane - FNS; [\(b\) \(6\) - FNS](#); O'Connor, Tim - FNS; Lavallee, Aaron  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Seattle TV station report and question from States re pink slime in USDA Foods

Bruce – The highlighted statement below is all that I've seen -- it's in the attached.

Dirk Fillpot at AMS (contact info in the e-mail above) may have more detailed information.  
– Rich

---

**From:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 5:59 PM  
**To:** Kriviski, Diane - FNS  
**Cc:** Lucas, Richard - FNS; [\(b\) \(6\) - FNS](#); O'Connor, Tim - FNS  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT - Seattle TV station report and question from States re pink slime in USDA Foods  
**Importance:** High

Diane

Do we have any talking points for (b) (6) on this subject – he will be in WA Monday? I will pose the same question to AMS because I think they fielded this query.

Bruce

**Bruce C. Alexander**  
**Director, Communications & Governmental Affairs**  
**U.S. Department of Agriculture - Food & Nutrition Service**  
**3101 Park Center Drive**  
**Alexandria, VA 22302**  
**(703) 305-2281 (office)**  
**[Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov)**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 5:11 PM  
**To:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** URGENT - Seattle TV station report and question from States re pink slime in USDA Foods  
**Importance:** High

Bruce,

I'm not sure if this statement came from AMS or FNS. However, since (b) (6) will be at a school event on Monday in Seattle, he may get this question.

The Hawaii State agency wants to know is, does USDA Food (ground beef) contain an ammonia-based solution, known as "pink slime"?

Excerpt from article: In a statement, the USDA said that school lunch-approved meat is always safe – but offered no particular insight on the ammonia-based solution: "All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations."

Here's the article:

**Q 13 FOX TV**

**Seattle, WA**

# 'Pink slime' is not just at McDonald's

## Majority of ground beef in America contains ammonia-based cleaning solvent

Erin Hawksworth

Q13 FOX News reporter

6:53 PM PST, February 1, 2012

SEATTLE

Earlier this week McDonald's announced that it would stop using a food additive frequently referred to as "pink slime." The substance, however, is completely legal and can still be found in school cafeterias around America.

The pink slime is in fact an ammonia-based solution, used to help kill bacteria in low-grade meat.

It is approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and, according to a 2010 New York Times article, used in "the majority of hamburger" sold in America.

"They wash this meat and that kills E. coli and pathogens and [salmonella](#). Then we drain it and mince it," said celebrity chef Jamie Oliver. "It's typically cheap meat given to dogs, but after it's processed it can be given to humans."

Beef Products Incorporated, the company that came up with the process, estimates that its ammonia-based product is in 70 percent of the ground beef sold in the U.S. Most fast food giants stopped using pink slime five months ago.

The proprietors of Rain Shadow Meats on Capitol Hill do not use ammonia to treat their product and said the pink slime is shameful.

Seattle Public Schools officials said that there is no documentation of school cafeterias serving ammonia-treated meat.

"Our goal is to make sure our students are fed a healthy lunch and nutritious breakfast," said spokesperson Lesley Rogers.

In a statement, the USDA said that school lunch-approved meat is always safe – but offered no particular insight on the ammonia-based solution:

"All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations."

There is no federal labeling requirement for beef treated with ammonia, making it difficult to know whether meat has or has not been treated.



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 1:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** 'Pink slime' is not just at McDonald's

(b) (6)

This is the story I mentioned and the video. No name of the USDA official quoted. We do need some talking points though to help answer the Hawaii Public Schools question. I will send you that in the next email. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:31 PM  
**To:** FNS - WRO SNP DL  
**Subject:** FYI: 'Pink slime' is not just at McDonald's

FYI: you may want to take a look at this story as it makes reference to USDA Foods ground beef which schools and institutions use. Just in case you get questions from your states.

(b) (6)

FYI Pink Slime☺

USDA Affirms Safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) for Consumers but for the next school year " ... the department will be adjusting procurement specifications ... so schools can have ... a choice to order product either with or without LFTB ..."

This information was sent to you by Jack Cooper of the Food Industry Environmental Network, LLC --- <http://www.fien.com> --- 33 Falling Creek Court, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 --- Cell Phone: 301 384 8287 --- E-Mail: [JLC@fien.com](mailto:JLC@fien.com) --- The Searchable Index of Previously Distributed FIEN Messages is available at [http://www.fien.com/login/logins.php?RELOAD=/search\\_article.php](http://www.fien.com/login/logins.php?RELOAD=/search_article.php)

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 5:01:47 PM

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[More questions](#)

---

**From:** Eng, Monica E. [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@tribune.com](mailto:(b) (6)@tribune.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 4:55 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

Hi Aaron

Obviously I have lots of questions for when we talk but I will add this one in advance. Does the announcement of three BPI (makers of LFTB) plants closing today change the USDA's ability to supply LFTB meat to schools.

Also there were references to commodity beef with a higher fat content being offered to schools if they did not take the LFTB. Will that now be the default?

Is commodity beef ever mixed with vegetable protein/soy before it is shipped to districts and their processors or does the addition of the soy/protein happen at the individual processor level?

Thanks

Monica Eng

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC [<mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:46 AM  
**To:** Eng, Monica E.  
**Subject:** RE: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

Monica,

The release addresses only the purchases made by USDA – some school districts, and possibly CPS, purchase their own beef products. It is important to clarify if CPS is referencing their own purchases.

I will have my pull together information on the rest of the questions and safety.

---

**From:** Eng, Monica E. [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@tribune.com](mailto:(b) (6)@tribune.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:18 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

Hi Aaron

I hope you are doing well. I am hoping I can follow up on my last request to you about whether or not Illinois/Chicago ground beef that might have contained "lean finely textured beef."

Again the reason I ask is because the CPS supplier claims that they were not. The USDA press release seemed to indicate that this was the first time in recent years that the option for beef with LFTB or not was on offer.

Also with the wave of retailers who have just announced bans on the product, my editors have asked me to do a piece looking at whether or not this was a rash move and if there really are any legitimate safety concerns.

They also want me to look at what else might be in a typical serving of ground beef, especially the kind of ground beef that goes into institutional meals such as school or prison meals. I am under the impression that it is permissible to add a quantity of soy based TVP or VPP to such meat and not label it.

I'd like to get full details on the rules around this from USDA very soon –I need to turn this in finished by Wednesday--so I can make sure all parties are represented in this story

Best

Monica Eng

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC [<mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 11:15 AM  
**To:** Eng, Monica E.  
**Subject:** RE: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

On background –

We don't have figures on how many schools serve products that contain lean finely textured beef. In terms of our purchases, this announcement just came out – next step is to put the new specifications out to our vendors and see what the marketplace has to offer – it's a supply and demand issue – and this is a market price and up to the market to fill the order, so until it is floated out there we don't have an estimate. Once the vendors bid this, that will determine if it costs more or less and we should have a better idea of supply.

What this announcement does is make it a "wider option" in that it will be an option for all schools purchasing through USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

---

**From:** Eng, Monica E. [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@tribune.com](mailto:(b) (6)@tribune.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 12:06 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

Hi Aaron

Thanks

Chicago Public Schools says that its vendor already doesn't use any Lean Finely Texture Beef. So is it ALREADY an option in many districts and this will just make it a wider option?

Thanks

Monica

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC [<mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:27 PM  
**To:** Eng, Monica E.  
**Subject:** FW: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

Yes

On background to your second question, USDA is in the process of revising its purchase procedures and will consult with our vendors before making our final determinations.

---

**From:** Eng, Monica E. [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@tribune.com](mailto:(b) (6)@tribune.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:00 PM  
**To:** USDA Office of Communications  
**Cc:** Chan, Stephanie - OC

**Subject:** RE: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

Hi Stephanie

I just want to be sure that the Lean Finely Textured Beef is what critics have been calling "pink slime."

Also, can you give me specific examples of what kind of other options schools will have?

thanks

Monica Eng

(b) (6)

---

**From:** USDA Office of Communications [usda@public.govdelivery.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:46 PM

**To:** Eng, Monica E.

**Subject:** USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

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## USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

### *USDA Affirms Safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef Product for Consumers*

WASHINGTON, March 15, 2012 – In response to requests from school districts across the country, the USDA announced today that it will offer more choices to schools in the National School Lunch Program when it comes to purchases of ground beef products.

USDA only purchases products for the school lunch program that are safe, nutritious and affordable – including all products containing Lean Finely Textured Beef. However, due to customer demand, the department will be adjusting procurement specifications for the next school year so schools can have additional options in procuring ground beef products. USDA will provide schools with a choice to order product either with or without Lean Finely Textured Beef.

USDA continues to affirm the safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef product for all consumers and urges customers to consult science based information on the safety and quality of this product. Lean Finely Textured Beef is a meat product derived from a process which separates fatty pieces from beef trimmings to reduce the overall fat content.

By law, USDA has two primary responsibilities as part of its mandate to provide safe and nutritious food to the American people. Through the Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA ensures that safety of the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and processed egg products. Through the Food and Nutrition Service and the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA provides food and nutrition assistance through several domestic programs, including the National School Lunch Program.

While USDA sets national nutritional guidelines for school meals, school districts make local

decisions on what food to feed kids to meet these guidelines. On average, schools in the National School Lunch Program purchase approximately 20 percent of their food through USDA, and approximately 80 percent of food served is purchased directly by schools or school districts through private vendors. Schools purchase food from the department through the [USDA Foods Program](#), which provides more than 180 nutritious food items that are fresh, frozen, packaged, canned, dried, or in bulk. USDA procures these products based on the demand from schools to help meet the menu planning needs, student taste preferences, school nutrition goals, and local wellness initiatives.

USDA ensures all food purchased for the National School Lunch Program meet stringent food safety standards, which includes rigorous pathogen testing. Purchase specifications are continually reviewed, microbial test results are evaluated, new food safety technologies are considered, and food safety experts are consulted to determine the adequacy of our food safety requirements.

#

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**From:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:19:17 PM

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**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:56 PM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** Fw: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

---

**From:** Eng, Monica E. [\[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@tribune.com\]](mailto:(b) (6)@tribune.com)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:50 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

Hi Aaron

The company that supplies ground meat to CPS is called JTM and its Web site says:

For over 20 years, JTM has been processing **USDA** donated commodities for the School Lunch

So my question is: has the USDA been sending JTM ground beef with LFTB in it or would it make sense that the ground beef would be FREE of LFTB?

I look forward to talking .

Best

Monica Eng

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC [\[mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov\]](mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:46 AM  
**To:** Eng, Monica E.  
**Subject:** RE: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

Monica,

The release addresses only the purchases made by USDA – some school districts, and possibly CPS, purchase their own beef products. It is important to clarify if CPS is referencing their own purchases.

I will have my pull together information on the rest of the questions and safety.

**From:** [Tuverson, Robert - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [FSIS - OPACE/FSE](#)  
**Subject:** FW: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:36:33 PM

---

Not a whole lot more guidance on how to handle pink slime calls. But we'll take what we can get. See below.

**Robert T. Tuverson**

Director, Food Safety Education Staff  
Office of Public Affairs & Consumer Education  
USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service  
(301) 344-4747

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:23 PM  
**To:** FSIS - OPACE/Managers  
**Subject:** USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

All,

As Bryce astutely notes, the USDA issued a press release on beef purchases for schools in the coming year. Couple of points I would stress to folks:

This is a USDA decision, NOT an FSIS position. You can share the content of the press release and point folks to the USDA website for additional information. Key passage below:

By law, USDA has two primary responsibilities as part of its mandate to provide safe and nutritious food to the American people. Through the Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA ensures that safety of the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and processed egg products. Through the Food and Nutrition Service and the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA provides food and nutrition assistance through several domestic programs, including the National School Lunch Program.

There is no need to be defensive. This is a safe product or else USDA wouldn't allow it in commerce.

Please share with your staff that may be contacted by the public. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:04 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

And here we are. Presumably this supersedes OC's previous statement?

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff



Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Leach, Alicemary - FSIS](#); [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:51:37 PM

---

Fyi, as promised. This will change our "pink slime" campaign response, but I am confirming exactly how this afternoon.

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:28:27 PM

---

(b) (6) and (b) (6)

Just in case you get calls on the pink slime issue, wanted you to know the latest. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:23 PM  
**To:** FSIS - OPACE/Managers  
**Subject:** USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

All,

As Bryce astutely notes, the USDA issued a press release on beef purchases for schools in the coming year. Couple of points I would stress to folks:

This is a USDA decision, NOT an FSIS position. You can share the content of the press release and point folks to the USDA website for additional information. Key passage below:

By law, USDA has two primary responsibilities as part of its mandate to provide safe and nutritious food to the American people. Through the Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA ensures that safety of the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and processed egg products. Through the Food and Nutrition Service and the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA provides food and nutrition assistance through several domestic programs, including the National School Lunch Program.

There is no need to be defensive. This is a safe product or else USDA wouldn't allow it in commerce.

Please share with your staff that may be contacted by the public. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Thaler, Alice - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: USDA/ Pink Slime Added to 70% Of Our Hamburger  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:55:02 PM

---

Please direct this misdirected consumer comment to CPA for a response.

Alice M. Thaler, DVM, DACVPM  
Senior Director for Program Services  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Health Science  
Patriot Plaza III  
Stop 3766, PP 3, 9-178  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
202-690-2687  
BB 202-431-1109  
Fax 202-690-6337  
[alice.thaler@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:alice.thaler@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Darold Holden [mailto:(b) (6)@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:02 AM  
**To:** Thaler, Alice - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** : USDA/ Pink Slime Added to 70% Of Our Hamburger

[http://www.google.com/search?sourceid=navclient&aq=4&oq=USDA%2f&ie=UTF-8&rlz=1T4LENP\\_en\\_US473&q=usda%2fpink+slime&gs\\_upl=0I0I0I219808IIIIIIII0&aqi=g4s1&pbx=1](http://www.google.com/search?sourceid=navclient&aq=4&oq=USDA%2f&ie=UTF-8&rlz=1T4LENP_en_US473&q=usda%2fpink+slime&gs_upl=0I0I0I219808IIIIIIII0&aqi=g4s1&pbx=1)

Hello

If this does not make you sick, nothing will. I saw this on ABC News last nite at 5:45 CST with Dianne Sawyer, again this morning twice on CNN. What there are now allowing to be added went to pet food and cooking oil before.

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) [@usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@usda.gov)  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Vitals - "Pink slime" panic grows online: Are we overreacting?  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 2:51:52 PM

---

---

From: (b) (6) @hotmail.com  
To: (b) (6)@cfu.net; (b) (6)@yahoo.com; (b) (6)@tyson.com  
Subject: FW: Vitals - 'Pink slime' panic grows online: Are we overreacting?  
Date: Sat, 10 Mar 2012 13:26:34 -0600

> From: (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov  
> To: (b) (6) @hotmail.com  
> Subject: FW: Vitals - 'Pink slime' panic grows online: Are we overreacting?  
> Date: Sat, 10 Mar 2012 19:25:32 +0000  
>  
>  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@hotmail.com]  
> Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 1:20 PM  
> To: (b) (6) @usda.gov  
> Subject: Vitals - 'Pink slime' panic grows online: Are we overreacting?  
>  
> [http://vitals.msnbc.msn.com/\\_news/2012/03/08/10611274-pink-slime-panic-grows-online-are-we-overreacting](http://vitals.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/03/08/10611274-pink-slime-panic-grows-online-are-we-overreacting)  
>  
> Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Android phone  
> This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: What beef companies do not allow pink slime in ground beef? Why don't you stop t...  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:41:21 PM

---

And another:

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:53 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What beef companies do not allow pink slime in ground beef? Why don't you stop t...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@cox.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000071

**Summary:** What beef companies do not allow pink slime in ground beef? Why don't you stop t...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 04:09 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 04:09 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/08/2012 04:09 PM

What beef companies do not allow pink slime in ground beef? Why don't you stop this practice immediately?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: What companies are approved by the USDA to have PINK SLIME in them?  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:53:09 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:55 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What companies are approved by the USDA to have PINK SLIME in them?

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached

thankk you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@cox.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000088

**Summary:** What companies are approved by the USDA to have PINK SLIME in them?  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished



**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 09:35 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 09:35 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

**Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

03/08/2012 09:35 PM

What companies are approved by the USDA to have PINK SLIME in them?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: What is pink slime? How much ammonia hydroxide is used per 100 pounds of beef to ...  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 11:58:59 AM

---

Another ammonia:

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1162-S  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 4:19 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What is pink slime? How much ammonia hydroxide is used per 100 pounds of beef to ...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov))

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @stanwood.wednet.edu

**First Name:**

**Last Name:**

**Type:**

**Title:**

#### Reference #120203-000038

**Summary:** What is pink slime? How much ammonia hydroxide is used per 100 pounds of beef to ...

**Rule State:** 999.1 Expert Assign Queue

**Product Level 1:** Foodborne Organisms

**Product Level 2:** E. coli O157:H7

**Date Created:** 02/03/2012 02:57 PM

**Last Updated:** 02/03/2012 02:57 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

**Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

02/03/2012 02:57 PM

What is pink slime?

How much ammonia hydroxide is used per 100 pounds of beef to kill bacteria?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: What is pink slime? What is it used in besides ground beef?  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:38:47 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:55 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What is pink slime? What is it used in besides ground beef?

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@keloland.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120328-000017

**Summary:** What is pink slime? What is it used in besides ground beef?  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/28/2012 11:41 AM

**Last Updated:** 03/28/2012 11:41 AM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/28/2012 11:41 AM

What is pink slime?

What is it used in besides ground beef?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: What is pink slime?  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 1:20:40 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 4:03 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What is pink slime?

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120316-000020

**Summary:** What is pink slime?  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/16/2012 01:23 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/16/2012 01:23 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

**Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

03/16/2012 01:23 PM

What is pink slime?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: what is the truth about msm and msp are there organs and all parts of animal in ...  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:24:27 PM

---

Could you draft a response?

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:00 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: what is the truth about msm and msp are there organs and all parts of animal in ...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@comcast.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120320-000075

**Summary:** what is the truth about msm and msp are there organs and all parts of animal in ...

**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress



**Product Level 1:** Additives

**Product Level 2:** General

**Date Created:** 03/20/2012 09:40 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/20/2012 09:40 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/20/2012 09:40 PM

what is the truth about msm and msp are there organs and all parts of animal in hamburg like hearts and such and how do you know , also what is the pink slime for can you buy hamburg with out it what does it do that they have to put it in product. thank you

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: What is the USDA definition of "Beef"? If Pink Slime is "Beef then what about ho...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:56:33 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:23 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What is the USDA definition of "Beef"? If Pink Slime is "Beef then what about ho...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@hotmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120313-000005

**Summary:** What is the USDA definition of "Beef"? If Pink Slime is "Beef then what about ho...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/13/2012 08:57 AM

**Last Updated:** 03/13/2012 08:57 AM

**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/13/2012 08:57 AM

What is the USDA definition of "Beef"? If Pink Slime is "Beef then what about hoofs and teeth. Can those be added to ground "Beef" without any labeling? How much ammonia is allowed in ground "Beef"?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: What kind of conscientious moral principle did the former undersecretary used to...  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:54:12 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:59 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What kind of conscientious moral principle did the former undersecretary used to...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@wowway.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000005

**Summary:** What kind of conscientious moral principle did the former undersecretary used to...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 04:55 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 04:55 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### **Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

03/09/2012 04:55 AM

What kind of conscientious moral principle did the former undersecretary used to allow pink slime to be added to ground beef. This is fraud, to allow the sale of a substitute for a product. The least moral think you could have done is to label it and let consumers have a choice to buy or not to buy. Who ever is responsible should be prosecuted. The bottom 80% of the population have been deceived, they have been paying for a product that has been miss represented as pure ground beef.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: What stores sell the ground beef that has pink slime that was in the news last w...  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:26:16 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:45 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What stores sell the ground beef that has pink slime that was in the news last w...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@charter.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120322-000067

**Summary:** What stores sell the ground beef that has pink slime that was in the news last w...  
**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress

**Product Level 1:** Additives

**Product Level 2:** General

**Date Created:** 03/22/2012 11:36 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/22/2012 11:36 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/22/2012 11:36 PM

What stores sell the ground beef that has pink slime that was in the news last week... thanks Henry.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: What's Wrong With Pink Slime?  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:25:06 AM

---

Hi everyone,

There has been a lot of attention going out on the USDA and ground beef (especially ABC news) on "pink slime". I have forwarded you the below hyperlink (or copy and paste this) to have the facts on the ground beef issue. It is an interesting situation, but probably is being exaggerated on the negative side of things.

So, please take a look and understand the facts, because I'm sure you will be getting more questions on the issue. The USDA is buying millions of dollars worth of this FTLB product for the school lunch programs as well.

Any questions on it, just let me know. Thanks, make it a great day.

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6) @yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 8:05 AM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: What's Wrong With Pink Slime?

[http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/whats-wrong-with-pink-slime/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=120312](http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/whats-wrong-with-pink-slime/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=120312)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: When will the USDA protect U.S. citizens from things like PINK SLIME in our grou...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:55:21 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:04 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: When will the USDA protect U.S. citizens from things like PINK SLIME in our grou...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120312-000066

**Summary:** When will the USDA protect U.S. citizens from things like PINK SLIME in our grou...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/12/2012 09:22 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 09:22 PM

**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/12/2012 09:22 PM

When will the USDA protect U.S. citizens from things like PINK SLIME in our ground beef. Hard to believe my taxes go to a department that I expect to protect me, but instead the USDA is trying to poison me and my family. I'm sure another corrupt government official is making a pile of cash off of this too. When will somebody put a end to this corruption?

I now have zero trust in the USDA!!

Thanks

Mark Scribner

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: When will the use of pink slime in a beef product be put on the label? Thanks  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:52:43 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:41 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: When will the use of pink slime in a beef product be put on the label? Thanks

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@comcast.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000085

**Summary:** When will the use of pink slime in a beef product be put on the label? Thanks  
**Rule State:** 999.1 Expert Assign Queue

**Product Level 1:** Labeling

**Product Level 2:** General

**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 07:16 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 07:16 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/08/2012 07:16 PM

When will the use of pink slime in a beef product be put on the label?

Thanks

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Where can I complain about "Pink Slime" in hamburger? You will allow this DOG FO...  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:40:18 PM

---

Another:

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:50 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Where can I complain about "Pink Slime" in hamburger? You will allow this DOG FO...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@aol.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000027

**Summary:** Where can I complain about "Pink Slime" in hamburger? You will allow this DOG FO...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 11:36 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 11:36 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/08/2012 11:36 AM

Where can I complain about "Pink Slime" in hamburger? You will allow this DOG FOOD to be fed to our children? This agency needs to be revamped if this is the best it can do. How can we trust what YOU say is safe in our food?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Who can I contact to protest the usda approval of the pink slime meat additive? ...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:58:40 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:37 AM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Who can I contact to protest the usda approval of the pink slime meat additive? ...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@tampabay.rr.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120314-000002

**Summary:** Who can I contact to protest the usda approval of the pink slime meat additive? ...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/14/2012 01:04 AM

**Last Updated:** 03/14/2012 01:04 AM

**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/14/2012 01:04 AM

Who can I contact to protest the usda approval of the pink slime meat additive? This is disgusting. Safe or not Americans do not want waste materials added to our food.



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:11:59 AM

---

If only people knew they been eating it for 10 years.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:04 PM  
**Subject:** Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

[« Penthouse Pet accused of heading drug ring](#) | [Main](#) | [Peyton Manning picks the Broncos »](#)

## Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

Which is which? The hamburger made from ground beef containing what is derisively referred to as "pink slime," or what the meat industry calls "lean, finely textured beef," is on the right. The other one is pure 85% lean ground beef. (AP Photo/Jim Cole)

In this undated image released by Beef Products Inc., boneless lean beef trimmings are shown before packaging (aka "pink slime"). (AP Photo/Beef Products Inc.)

You've heard about the "pink slime," right? It's that meat filler made from slaughterhouse scraps that is treated with ammonia. (Yum!) Last week the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced plans to buy 7 million pounds of it. A federal microbiologist nicknamed the filler "pink slime."

[The Daily](#), the iPad newspaper from News Corp., has figured out which stores sell ground meat that contains pink slime.

According to [The Daily](#), these are among the stores that say they **do not sell meat with pink slime**:

- **A&P**
- **Whole Foods**
- **Costco**
- **Publix**

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:32:33 PM

---

FYI

(b) (6), Supervisory HR Specialist

**Human Resources Operations, Pay and Leave Unit**

USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

100 N. 6th Street

Butler Square, 4th Floor

Minneapolis, MN 55403

(b) (6)

fax (612) 370-2007

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:00 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

If you're interested since this is a hot topic and the consumer just doesn't know that since they've rejected the "pink slime" beef prices will increase. Unless they start using meat analog ingredients, which is also a filler in plenty of processed foods.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:46:57 AM

---

Thought you would find the interesting

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 9:24 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS;

(b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

OMG!!!! Someone that finally knows what is really going on in the plants and the real world!!!! This is a refreshing article and tells the truth about HACCP!!!! Those of us in the field have been saying there's a problem with HACCP since the beginning and that they were going to kill people not making E coli an adulterant on whole muscle product. This is something else and should be a MUST READ for ALL CONSUMERS!!!! The timing is very good since the Pink Slime has been in the news so much!!!! Please pass this along to others. Have a Wonderful Day and Great Weekend!!! ☺ (b) (6)

**From:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: your inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:59:25 PM

---

FYI

---

**From:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)@fmi.org'  
**Subject:** your inquiry

Good afternoon, Mr. (b) (6)

You put in a call to FSIS about the current controversy being referred to in the media as "pink slime." As you might imagine, we have received numerous call from media and consumers. We have been making the following statement. Please let us know if you need anything else from us.

"All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe."

*Walinda P. "Linda" West*

Supervisor, Constituent Affairs  
Congressional and Public Affairs Office  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1184  
Washington, DC 20250

Direct line: (b) (6)  
Main Ofc: (b) (6)  
Blackberry: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 720-5704

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "pink slime" calls today  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 4:02:33 PM

---

Diane,

Just for your interest: we've had 8 'pink slime' calls today

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Phone: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: complaints today?

Thanks!

So far I've counted 8 pink slime calls today—

Waiting to see if (b) (6) had any

(b) (6) you got the most (3), lucky you!

Any chats on 'pink slime?' (or were those included)??

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff  
Meat and Poultry Hotline  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:19 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: complaints today?

One pink slime so far

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: complaints today?

No CCMS ones from me.. (b) (6)

Folks,

I would like to know if you all had any "pink slime" calls today – if so, how many, please?

Thank you

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** complaints today?

I have to run to a 3:00pm meeting, please forward any complaints to me, and I will file with CCMS when I return.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

*Food Safety Specialist*

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2-L248C, MS- 5269

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854

or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: ABC & Pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:56:15 PM

---

----- Forwarded message -----  
**From: Carl Custer**

Whoo doggie, me 'n GZ been on Tee Vee :^)  
30 minutes of interview reduced to 10 seconds of "Fame"  
<<http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/pink-slime-15873068>>

FWIW, in 1990, we called it Soy lent Pink. Ah but kids today, who remembers "Soy lent Green"

On Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 7:02 PM, Carl Custer <(b) (6)@gmail.com> wrote:  
> Well, if you can catch today's ABC World news, I'm evidently on it  
> blathering about food safety.  
> They were supposed to tell me when . . . but didn't



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fwd: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 4:43:08 PM

---

(b) (6)

This was discussed this morning. We may have to help create a rule for the individuals' mailbox. Let's see what happens.

(b) (6)

Chief Technology Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA

(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 202.720.3984 | Cell: (b) (6)

"Operational Excellence: Enhancing Productivity with Technology"

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the help desk <http://service/footprints> . Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other Personal Data Assistant (PDA) or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) Incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, and then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1 (800) 473-9135.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Stevens, Janet - FSIS" <[Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov)>  
**Date:** March 10, 2012 11:15:49 AM EST  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS" (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)>, (b) (6) - FSIS" (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)>, (b) (6) - FSIS" (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Mayes, Carl - FSIS" <[Carl.Mayes@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Carl.Mayes@fsis.usda.gov)>  
**Subject:** **ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services**

All,

I was just made aware of a new online petition to ask USDA (meaning FSIS and AMS) to stop using "pink slime" in school lunches. There is the potential for increased website and email volume for our infrastructure. A similar [change.org](http://change.org) petition to Secretary Vilsack and 4 other USDA officials was posted on 3/6/12 and gathered more than 11,000 signatures in 3 days.

The petition to stop the "pink slime" can be found at: [http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink\\_slime/](http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink_slime/) . We will likely be asked to set up a rule on some senior executives' Outlook accounts to autoforward to folder. Please be vigilant for VIP requests in regards to the petition as well as potential impacts to the infrastructure. Please escalate any requests or issues to Carl and me immediately throughout

the weekend and next week.

Best Regards,  
Janet

Janet B. Stevens, PMP  
Chief Information Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA  
[Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov)  
Phone: 202-205-9950 | Fax: 202-690-3903 | Cell: 202-465-6769

Visit the FSIS Web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

FSIS Employees, visit your intranet site, InsideFSIS:  
<http://inside.fsis.usda.gov>

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the Service Desk: <http://service/footprints> or call 1-800-473-9135.

Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other personal data assistant or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1-(800) 473-9135.

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: FWD: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 12:47:19 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

just FYI....

#### Reference #120321-000097

**Summary:** Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Rule State:** 4 - In Progress  
**Product Level 1:** General Inspection Policy  
**Category Level 1:** Processing  
**Category Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/21/2012 02:32 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/26/2012 11:53 AM  
**Status:** Solved  
**Assigned:** Pete Duryea  
**Policy Arena?:** Domestic (U.S.) Only  
**Phone Number:** 9892558750  
**Establishment Number:**  
**Establishment Size:** Not Applicable  
**Call Duration:**  
**Phone Incident:**  
**Direct Email Incident:**  
**Analytics Flag:**  
**Analysis Product:**  
**Analysis Category:**  
**Policy Follow-up:** No

#### Key Words

#### Analysis Notes

#### Discussion Thread

##### Response Via Email (Pete Duryea)

03/26/2012 11:53 AM

Kat,

Thank you for your askFSIS question regarding the safety of beef products treated with ammonia hydroxide. FSIS continues to affirm the safety of beef products treated with ammonium hydroxide.

Specifically, your questions are:

Q1: How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

A1: The ammonium hydroxide can be used in food with no limitation, other than current good manufacturing practice, in full compliance with 21 CFR 184.1139 (<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=30dd3e223b7deaafb30b76b50904e07e&rgn=div8&view=text&node=21:3.0.1.1.14.2.1.31&idno=21>). The level of ammonium hydroxide in food is self-limiting. Foods containing high levels of ammonium hydroxide would be made unpalatable by the change in the organoleptic qualities of the food.

Q2: What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

A2: The ammonium hydroxide used in the production of food would need to meet the specifications for food grade as outlined in the Food Chemicals Codex (<http://www.usp.org/food-ingredients/food-chemicals-codex>). Industrial and household cleaners do not need to meet the food grade standard.

I hope this information helps. Thank you again for your e-mail and your concern for food safety. More information about food safety can be found on FSIS' Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov). Please feel to call me or to update your incident if you have further questions or wish to discuss my response.

Peter Duryea

PDD Staff Officer  
1 800 233 3935

**Auto-Response**

03/21/2012 02:32 PM

Your message has been received at the FSIS Policy Development Division (PDD) and will be assigned to a staff specialist for response.

Our goal is to provide an accurate response as quickly as possible—in most instances, this will be within two working days. Some questions, however, require extensive research and will take longer to answer. If you would like to know the status of your question, you can telephone PDD for additional discussion at 1-800-233-3935 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. Please refer to the incident reference number below when calling for clarification.

The reference number for your question is 120321-000097.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119837/username/JazzKat57](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119837/username/JazzKat57)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Policy Development Division.

**Customer By Web Form (Kat Tomaszewski)**

03/21/2012 02:32 PM

Hello,

Recently in the media there has been an outbreak of information regarding the use ammonium hydroxide on beef trimmings to create "pink slime."

According to Beef Products, Inc. they use 10mg of man-made ammonium hydroxide to kill the E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria in their beef trimmings ("trimmings" are the pieces of lean meat and fat that are the result of taking larger pieces of meat and cutting them to meet customer specifications) along with the 30mg of naturally occurring ammonia in the beef itself.

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

AND

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

Thanks in advance!

Kat

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fwd: AMSA Members - we need to respond  
**Date:** Sunday, March 11, 2012 11:43:24 AM

---

Fyi

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4GLTE smartphone

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** "(b) (6)" <(b) (6)@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "(b) (6)" <(b) (6)@catellibrothers.com>  
**Subject:** AMSA Members - we need to respond  
**Date:** Sat, Mar 10, 2012 07:22

--- On **Fri, 3/9/12, American Meat Science Association**  
<tpowell@meatscience.org> wrote:

**From:** American Meat Science Association <tpowell@meatscience.org>  
**Subject:** AMSA Members - we need to respond  
**To:** unadilla60@yahoo.com  
**Date:** Friday, March 9, 2012, 1:20 PM

AMSA Colleagues,

The media is again attacking the credibility of the scientific community that works in food animal agriculture. This time, the finely textured beef products that many of you have worked to discover and perfect is being maligned with apparent disregard of the facts.

If you have experience working with the safety and quality of products that come from current advanced meat recovery systems, I strongly encourage you to participate in the conversations that are swirling around "pink slime" in the social media and on the airwaves.

A few ideas

1. If you have a twitter account, post your thoughts and links to science based resources. Include the hashtags #pinkslime and #meatscience in your posts so that they get noticed.
2. Post on Linked in and Facebook in a similar manner and respond to your friends' postings on the subject.
3. Have you authored a journal article or other information piece on the science behind this technology? Send a link to the material to me and I'll add it to a list of resources we are preparing on our website. Post a link to the article on your facebook, twitter, linked in and other feeds.
4. Do not be afraid to comment on news stories and blog posts that are clearly off the mark in their presentation of the facts. Don't try to change people's minds online or get into fights, simply link to information that presents the science fairly.
5. When interacting with your own circle of friends and family, let them

know that you are completely aware of what this product is and that it is something you wouldn't hesitate to serve to your own family.

I look forward to seeing some balance on the internet once we all get into the conversation.

Sincerely,  
Thomas

---

Thomas Powell, Executive Director  
American Meat Science Association  
[tpowell@meatscience.org](mailto:tpowell@meatscience.org)

This e-mail was sent from American Meat Science Association ("American Meat Science Association" ) to [unadilla60@yahoo.com](mailto:unadilla60@yahoo.com).



To unsubscribe, please click on this link and follow the instructions:  
[Unsubscribe](#)

American Meat Science Association, 2441 Village Green Place Champaign IL 61822, Phone Number: (800) 517-2672 x10, Fax Number: (888) 205-5834, Email Address: [tpowell@meatscience.org](mailto:tpowell@meatscience.org), Website : <http://www.meatscience.org/>

From: (b) (6)  
To: (b) (6)  
Bcc:  
Subject: Fwd: article on meat processing and additives  
Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:42:40 PM  
Attachments: [AlterNet article 3-19-12.pdf](#)

---

Good Evening-

(b) (6) sent this to me earlier today and I am forwarding it on to you because it is a good read and indicates just how long we have been engaged in the processed beef trimmings quagmire. And with heavier cattle being harvested, we will have more trimmings to hide somewhere. If you have seen the article, I apologize for clogging your mailbox.

Be Well.

dhc.

(b) (6) [@aol.com](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) [DairyMarketingServices.com](#)>  
To: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [@DairyMarketingServices.com](#)>  
Sent: Tue, Mar 20, 2012 7:06 am  
Subject: FW: article on meat processing and additives

---

From: alerts [<mailto:alerts@nfo.org>]  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 12:10 PM  
To: alerts  
Subject: article on meat processing and additives

INFO from NFO

Sharing current information or requesting action from you  
Please do not reply to this e-mail as you will not get a response to messages sent to this e-mail address

---

Attached is a link to an AlterNet article on food additives

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: As a registered dietitian, I am being asked about the pink slime scandal. What s...  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 3:37:42 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @vidanthealth.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120323-000025

**Summary:** As a registered dietitian, I am being asked about the pink slime scandal. What s...  
**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress  
**Product Level 1:** Nutrition  
**Product Level 2:** Food Composition data  
**Date Created:** 03/23/2012 12:57 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/23/2012 12:57 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/23/2012 12:57 PM

As a registered dietitian, I am being asked about the pink slime scandal. What should I tell them. Is it harmful or just an additive to stretch meat.



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Can you please explain the term "Pink Slime".  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:36:13 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @comcast.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120310-000037

**Summary:** Can you please explain the term "Pink Slime".  
**Rule State:** 999.1 Expert Assign Queue  
**Product Level 1:** Additives  
**Product Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/10/2012 09:46 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/10/2012 09:46 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/10/2012 09:46 PM

Can you please explain the term "Pink Slime".

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Consumers want to know if PINK SLIME is in their beef. We are your customers. Ho...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:33:25 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120315-000067

**Summary:** Consumers want to know if PINK SLIME is in their beef. We are your customers. Ho...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/15/2012 07:53 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/15/2012 07:53 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/15/2012 07:53 PM

Consumers want to know if PINK SLIME is in their beef. We are your customers. How about labels that tell us? We are not going to buy ground beef unless we know for sure. we will use ground turkey and other substitutes until we see labels or we will also use local fresh ground beef. Bottom line unless we know for sure, no purchase.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Could you explain your position on "pink slime" added to our hamburger? I would ...  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:54:08 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.  
thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @jpbrown.org  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000086

**Summary:** Could you explain your position on "pink slime" added to our hamburger? I would ...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 08:50 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 08:50 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/08/2012 08:50 PM

Could you explain your position on "pink slime" added to our hamburger? I would like to know which meat has this so I can choose another option. I don't want ammonia in my hamburger.  
Thank you, Sharon Kenny

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FWD: Does ground turkey contain pink slime too?  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 7:32:36 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @gmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120307-000054

**Summary:** Does ground turkey contain pink slime too?  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/07/2012 09:58 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/07/2012 09:58 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/07/2012 09:58 PM

Does ground turkey contain pink slime too?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: does mcdonalds use pink slime in hamburgers  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 7:47:38 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @gmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120325-000012

**Summary:** does mcdonalds use pink slime in hamburgers  
**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress  
**Product Level 1:** Additives  
**Product Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/25/2012 12:00 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/25/2012 12:00 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/25/2012 12:00 PM

does mcdonalds use pink slime in hamburgers

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FWD: Does the USDA approve pink slime  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 7:45:09 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @aol.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120324-000005

**Summary:** Does the USDA approve pink slime  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/24/2012 11:14 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/24/2012 11:14 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/24/2012 11:14 AM

Does the USDA approve pink slime

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FWD: Does Tom Vilsack eat pink slime? Keep this crap in dog food where it belongs!  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:23:52 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @rochester.rr.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120328-000057

**Summary:** Does Tom Vilsack eat pink slime? Keep this crap in dog food where it belongs!  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/28/2012 07:02 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/28/2012 07:02 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/28/2012 07:02 PM

Does Tom Vilsack eat pink slime? Keep this crap in dog food where it belongs!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Does Walmart meats contain "Pink Slime"?  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:56:04 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @excite.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000091

**Summary:** Does Walmart meats contain "Pink Slime"?  
**Rule State:** 999.1 Expert Assign Queue  
**Product Level 1:** Antibiotics, Hormones, Residues  
**Product Level 2:** Residues  
**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 10:17 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 10:17 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/08/2012 10:17 PM

Does Walmart meats contain "Pink Slime"?



AMI - (b) (6); (b) (6)  
NCBA - (b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (6)

CVB – (b) (6), (b) (6)

AHI – (b) (6), (b) (6) (Pfizer), (b) (6) (Bioniche)

FSIS – Both NCBA and AHI have contacted (b) (6). She has indicated that FSIS is interested and will participate. They are determining who to send.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Kent

*Kent D. McClure, DVM, JD  
General Counsel  
Animal Health Institute  
1325 G Street, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-637-2440*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Get rid of the "pink slime" in hamburger!!!!.....disgusting....deceptive...devi...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:21:09 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@aol.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000085

**Summary:** Get rid of the "pink slime" in hamburger!!!!.....disgusting....deceptive...devi...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 07:55 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 07:55 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 07:55 PM

Get rid of the "pink slime" in hamburger!!!!.....disgusting....deceptive...devious action by the woman who originally approved its use. She should be prosecuted. Yes, I saw the article on ABC NEWS. I will only buy hamburger from Costco from now on.....since they do not permit it in their meat.

**From:** [chevy chow](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fwd: Gross  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 9:52:42 PM

---

Check this out! Not Chlorine like I thought  
It's even worst

Mimi

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Corinne Ball, [Change.org](#)" <[mail@change.org](mailto:mail@change.org)>  
**Date:** March 10, 2012 2:25:54 PM EST  
**To:** (b) (6) @aol.com  
**Subject:** Gross



Dear (b) (6)

**Pink slime is gross.** It's connective tissues of cow and other beef trimmings, heavily treated with ammonia to kill pathogens like salmonella and E coli.

Experts say it's "a high risk product" that lacks nutritional benefit. Even fast food giants like McDonald's and Taco Bell dropped it years ago.

**But the USDA is about to buy 7 million tons of pink slime to put in school lunches.**

Bettina Siegel, a lawyer and mother to two school-aged kids, started a petition to get the USDA to cancel its order ASAP, and it's gaining national attention.

If tens of thousands of people sign, the media and lawmakers will take notice and pressure the USDA to cancel the order.

[Click here to sign Bettina's petition asking the USDA to keep pink slime out of school lunches.](#)

Thanks for being a change-maker,

- Corinne and the [Change.org](#) team

-----

*Here's more information from Bettina:*

"Pink slime" is the term used for a mixture of fatty meat scrap and connective tissue (formerly used only for pet food and rendering) that is treated with ammonia hydroxide to remove pathogens like salmonella and E coli. These so-called "Lean Beef Trimmings," are produced by Beef Products, Inc.

[Tell the USDA to stop feeding 'pink slime' to kids in school lunches](#)



[Sign the Petition](#)

Two former government microbiologists claim that, for political reasons, pink slime was approved for human consumption by USDA over serious safety concerns.

Government and industry records obtained by The New York Times in 2009 showed that "in testing for the school lunch program, E. coli and salmonella pathogens have been found dozens of times in Beef Products meat, challenging claims by the company and the USDA about the effectiveness of the treatment. Since 2005, E. coli has been found 3 times and salmonella 48 times, including back-to-back incidents in August in which two 27,000-pound batches were found to be contaminated. The meat was caught before reaching lunch-rooms trays."

Even apart from safety concerns, it is simply wrong to feed our children connective tissues and beef scraps that were, in the past, destined for use in pet food and rendering and were not considered fit for human consumption.

Due to public outcry, fast food giants like McDonald's and Taco Bell have stopped using pink slime in their food. But the federal government continues to allow its use in school food and has just authorized the purchase of ground beef which collectively contains an additional 7 million pounds of pink slime for consumption by our nation's children.

**[Tell the USDA to STOP the use of ground beef containing pink slime in the National School Lunch Program!](#)**

This email was sent by [Change.org](#) to (b) (6) @aol.com | [Start a petition](#)  
[Unsubscribe](#) from future weekly updates. Edit your [email notification settings](#).



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Happily we consumers seem to be winning the fight against "pink slime" in spite ...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:40:15 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @citcom.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120321-000055

**Summary:** Happily we consumers seem to be winning the fight against "pink slime" in spite ...  
**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress  
**Product Level 1:** Additives  
**Product Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/21/2012 07:31 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/21/2012 07:31 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/21/2012 07:31 PM

Happily we consumers seem to be winning the fight against "pink slime" in spite of the USDA's attempt to keep it a secret by failing to require its inclusion on the product label. At least four major grocery chains are pulling out of the deception due to consumer inquiries and concerns.

My question, is it safe to assume it would never be added to ground chuck as it would definitely be a label violation since "pink slime" can in no way be construed as chuck?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: How can I and others petition to have more information put on our food labeling?...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:34:17 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.  
Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120310-000030

**Summary:** How can I and others petition to have more information put on our food labeling?...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/10/2012 07:33 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/10/2012 07:33 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/10/2012 07:33 PM

How can I and others petition to have more information put on our food labeling? I would like to know all of the ingredients used during processing. The most troubling example being (pink slime) ammonia treated finely ground lean beef, but also other things. I know some chicken breast are injected with salt brines to make them more plump and tasty, but I would like to know what it is and how much. It is hard to control the amount of sodium and the quality of my families food intake without this type of information.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: How can you justify adding pink slime to beef? Is the "processing agent" Ammoniu...  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:40:35 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @rocketmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120327-000004

**Summary:** How can you justify adding pink slime to beef? Is the "processing agent" Ammoniu...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/27/2012 08:15 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/27/2012 08:15 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/27/2012 08:15 AM

How can you justify adding pink slime to beef? Is the "processing agent" Ammonium hydroxide removed from the beef before human consumption? Sure, ammonium hydroxide kills pathogens, but it also kills people, it has too many adverse side effects to list . Ammonium hydroxide has an HMIS health hazard rating of 3. Last time I checked, anything above 0 isn't safe for human consumption. As a chemist I work with ammonium hydroxide, and I would NEVER consume it, I wouldn't let my pets consume it either. Please stop this madness.



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FWD: How can you not tell us if pink slime is in our food? You are going to lose this...  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:02:06 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @sbcglobal.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120312-000064

**Summary:** How can you not tell us if pink slime is in our food? You are going to lose this...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/12/2012 08:37 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 08:37 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/12/2012 08:37 PM

How can you not tell us if pink slime is in our food?  
You are going to lose this one!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:36:48 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

### Sender's Comment

For your response

### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) hotmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

### Reference #120315-000030

**Summary:** How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/15/2012 01:47 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/15/2012 01:47 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

#### Customer By Web Form

03/15/2012 01:47 PM

How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA?

Can ground beef products that have been adulterated with "Pink Slime" (Lean Finely Textured Beef) be legally labeled as "Fresh Ground"?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FWD: How much money did the USDA take to approve the use of pink slime in schools?  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 11:52:35 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see attached inquiry.  
Thank you,  
AskKaren team

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @ymail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120316-000061

**Summary:** How much money did the USDA take to approve the use of pink slime in schools?  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/16/2012 09:19 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/16/2012 09:19 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/16/2012 09:19 PM

How much money did the USDA take to approve the use of pink slime in schools?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I am very concerned about the "pink slime" that is put into our ground beef!! Th...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:54:46 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @gmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000040

**Summary:** I am very concerned about the "pink slime" that is put into our ground beef!! Th...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 12:39 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 12:39 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/08/2012 12:39 PM

I am very concerned about the "pink slime" that is put into our ground beef!! The USDA approved this and the grocers do not have to tell us. I want to know what is in my food and I refuse to buy it again until I know what I am purchasing. I will grind it myself until further notice. Please change this policy as soon as possible. This is just plain WRONG that this was started in the first place!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FWD: I am writing an article for my school's newspaper, and I was wondering if you co...  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:12:54 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120314-000009

**Summary:** I am writing an article for my school's newspaper, and I was wondering if you co...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/14/2012 08:11 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/14/2012 08:11 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/14/2012 08:11 AM

I am writing an article for my school's newspaper, and I was wondering if you could give some information on Pink Slime including what it is, how it is made, and what the potential health risks are behind it. Thanks!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I have found the reports of "pink slime" in food to be quite alarming. More upse...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:35:34 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @gmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120311-000001

**Summary:** I have found the reports of "pink slime" in food to be quite alarming. More upse...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/11/2012 03:57 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/11/2012 03:57 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/11/2012 03:57 AM

I have found the reports of "pink slime" in food to be quite alarming. More upsetting is finding out that the USDA, a group that most of us rely on to keep our food safe, allows this "slime" to be in our food in the first place.

"Under federal law, the USDA is not required to distinguish between products that may or may not have pink slime included in its ingredients. Manufacturers are not required to put ammonia on a food label's list of ingredients either."

Sounds like it's time to change the laws. I wouldn't feed this to my grandmother or my children. I find it difficult to believe that the families of USDA personnel are actually eating this substance. Really, isn't this a case of "Let them eat cake!"? If you wouldn't eat it, wouldn't feed it to your own family, why do you think it's

[REDACTED] do so to others..those who count on you to do a better job than has been done in this case.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I have heard a lot about pink slime and now that the public is aware it some gro...  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:26:47 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @comcast.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120322-000057

**Summary:** I have heard a lot about pink slime and now that the public is aware it some gro...  
**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress  
**Product Level 1:** Additives  
**Product Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/22/2012 07:05 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/22/2012 07:05 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/22/2012 07:05 PM

I have heard a lot about pink slime and now that the public is aware it some grocery chains are pulling the plug on it so I shop at the military commissary and I want to know if the government is contracting companies that use this practice?  
Rich



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I just read an article that McDonald's will stop using "pink slime" (beef waste ...  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 9:45:56 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached,

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120131-000053

**Summary:** I just read an article that McDonald's will stop using "pink slime" (beef waste ...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 01/31/2012 06:02 PM  
**Last Updated:** 01/31/2012 06:02 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

01/31/2012 06:02 PM

I just read an article that McDonald's will stop using "pink slime" (beef waste treated with ammonia) in their burgers. How can the USDA label "pink slime" safe?

From: (b) (6) -FSIS  
To: (b) (6)  
Subject: FWD: I was disappointed to find that there s no expert from USDA weighing in on the ...  
Date: Monday March 12, 2012 8:32:07 AM

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
(b) (6) (b) (6) (fsis.usda.gov)

**Sender's Comment**

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

**Contact Information**

Email Address: (b) (6) @live.com  
First Name:  
Last Name:  
Type:  
Title:

**Reference #120310-000023**

**Summary:** I was disappointed to find that there is no expert from USDA weighing in on the ...  
**Rule State:** 999.1 Expert Assign Queue  
**Product Level 1:** FSIS Programs  
**Product Level 2:** USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline  
**Date Created:** 03/10/2012 03:37 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/10/2012 03:37 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

**Discussion Thread**

**Customer By Web Form**

03/10/2012 03:37 PM

I was disappointed to find that there is no expert from USDA weighing in on the controversy on "pink slime" in hamburger being shipped by USDA to public schools after fast food restaurants and the UK "banned" it while former food safety scientists are claiming it's unsafe. The fact that there is no statement by USDA makes it look like their alarming report is credible. What do I, as a dietitian, tell my friends and patients?? USDA needs to be front and center when this stuff goes out. Thanks. See article: [http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-slime-8221-beef-180500764.html?fb\\_action\\_ids=10150588570452135&fb\\_action\\_types=news\\_reads&fb\\_source=other\\_multitiline&code=AQAW7\\_ARsDd9njmDa\\_WbGAsGNghrbiro8VKPc13J8tjSFOrqqOyAs3Bh0Km90IN0wnQoTA4ja6CxZazDb2-JFxeGPtM5k6JH6S0cG1D0vG26cuCKiMzDdCdcvq\\_6A1KRMIC3iOATVAIWixtMSvhoKISWMAKWSTdyTRnCrHomlQJhkjVaiA7jiEBdDiGvqIg#\\_](http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-slime-8221-beef-180500764.html?fb_action_ids=10150588570452135&fb_action_types=news_reads&fb_source=other_multitiline&code=AQAW7_ARsDd9njmDa_WbGAsGNghrbiro8VKPc13J8tjSFOrqqOyAs3Bh0Km90IN0wnQoTA4ja6CxZazDb2-JFxeGPtM5k6JH6S0cG1D0vG26cuCKiMzDdCdcvq_6A1KRMIC3iOATVAIWixtMSvhoKISWMAKWSTdyTRnCrHomlQJhkjVaiA7jiEBdDiGvqIg#_)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I would like to know how much longer the USDA is going to allow pink slime to be...  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:56:42 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@charter.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000092

**Summary:** I would like to know how much longer the USDA is going to allow pink slime to be...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 10:19 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 10:19 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/08/2012 10:19 PM

I would like to know how much longer the USDA is going to allow pink slime to be allowed into our beef in the United States. This should be a health hazard and this is also going into my kids food in the school systems. This should be shameful and this is awful this is being allowed to continue. Is this something that is being looked into? Thank you. Jerry Butzin

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I would like to see labeling for the meat additive popularly known as "pink slim...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:12:41 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @gmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120312-000017

**Summary:** I would like to see labeling for the meat additive popularly known as "pink slim...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/12/2012 12:30 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 12:30 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/12/2012 12:30 PM

I would like to see labeling for the meat additive popularly known as "pink slime."  
As a consumer, I feel that I have a right to know what is in the food that I eat and how much additive, such as pink slime, is present.

What are the issues surrounding the labeling of pink slime? Why hasn't this been addressed? Is there any discussion about this topic or committee working on proper labeling for meat? Please advise.

Thank you.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FWD: If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 2:47:01 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@verizon.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120322-000066

**Summary:** If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/22/2012 11:16 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/22/2012 11:16 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/22/2012 11:16 PM

If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round", or "ground sirloin", is it correct to assume there is no " finely texured lean beef" or "pink slime" in the product?  
Thanks.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: If this "pink slime" is not good enough for Taco Bell and McDonald's customers, ...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:25:28 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000088

**Summary:** If this "pink slime" is not good enough for Taco Bell and McDonald's customers, ...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Product Level 1:** Additives  
**Product Level 2:** Ammonium Hydroxide  
**Category Level 1:** Meat and Poultry in General  
**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 08:35 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 08:23 AM  
**Status:** Referred  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 08:35 PM

If this "pink slime" is not good enough for Taco Bell and McDonald's customers, how can we be feeding it to school children?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I'm really concerned that you guys let "pink slime" go through....and that large...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 7:22:46 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @aol.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120307-000049

**Summary:** I'm really concerned that you guys let "pink slime" go through....and that large...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/07/2012 06:53 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/07/2012 06:53 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/07/2012 06:53 PM

I'm really concerned that you guys let "pink slime" go through....and that large former undersecretary...very naughty making those extra bucks....why did you do it?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: In news reports last night (3/15) it was reported that you will give schools the...  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 8:11:35 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@citcom.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120316-000003

**Summary:** In news reports last night (3/15) it was reported that you will give schools the...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/16/2012 07:19 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/16/2012 07:19 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/16/2012 07:19 AM

In news reports last night (3/15) it was reported that you will give schools the opportunity to order beef without pink slime. Is that true? Will you be offering the general public that same option? Thanks, R. C. Tresise



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Is it possible for the USDA to reconsider its decision to allow Lean Beef Trimmings...  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:38:43 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000078

**Summary:** Is it possible for the USDA to reconsider its decision to allow Lean Beef Trimmings...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Product Level 1:** Inspection  
**Category Level 1:** Ground Beef  
**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 05:09 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 07:37 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/08/2012 05:09 PM

Is it possible for the USDA to reconsider its decision to allow Lean Beef Trimmings (Pink Slime) to be added to food for human consumption, especially for the school lunch program? I think it would be much better for the health of our nation.

Thanks,

Royce Gambill

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Is the beef industry ready for consumers to buy only organic? This issue of pink...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:24:44 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached,

Thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@haywood.edu  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000090

**Summary:** Is the beef industry ready for consumers to buy only organic? This issue of pink...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 08:59 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 08:59 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 08:59 PM

Is the beef industry ready for consumers to buy only organic? This issue of pink slime will not disappear. Do your job as advocates for the American public.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: It disgusts me that you allow the meat industry to put pink slime or (ammonium-h...  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:59:07 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

fro your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120319-000060

**Summary:** It disgusts me that you allow the meat industry to put pink slime or (ammonium-h...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/19/2012 08:32 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/19/2012 08:32 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/19/2012 08:32 PM

It disgusts me that you allow the meat industry to put pink slime or (ammonium-hydroxide) in our hamburger. What is even more disturbing is that you do not require it to be labeled as an ingredient. Why do you not require it to be labeled as a ingredient? Also are there any other chemicals that are allowed in our foods that do not have to be listed as an ingredient?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: ive heard a lot of hype in the news about "pink slime" and im not sure exactly w...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 5:22:59 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120329-000061

**Summary:** ive heard a lot of hype in the news about 'pink slime' and im not sure exactly w...  
**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress  
**Product Level 1:** Additives  
**Product Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/29/2012 03:39 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/29/2012 03:39 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/29/2012 03:39 PM

ive heard a lot of hype in the news about 'pink slime' and im not sure exactly what that is. ive tried to do my own research but there is just so much on it that i cant make sense of it all. i know that when meat is inspected by the fda its inspected as it is.. be it a side of beef or whatever.. but this slime.. what is it?? is it approved by the fda?? is it dangerous to anyone?? ive seen things about it regarding cancer so im now curious. also ive heard on the news that it is now in our meats that we buy at the grocery store. is there a link you can share on it or please inform me on this product??

thank you for having this available.. ive used it before and got wonderful information..

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: I've read that pink slime is being used in supermarkets. How do I determine whic...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:31:39 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120315-000063

**Summary:** I've read that pink slime is being used in supermarkets. How do I determine whic...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/15/2012 07:00 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/15/2012 07:00 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/15/2012 07:00 PM

I've read that pink slime is being used in supermarkets. How do I determine which meats are free of pink slime so that I can decide what meats to consume?

Thank you

**From:** [Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lean Finely Textured Beef  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:30:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [LFTB letter to FSIS.docx](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

---

In case you didn't receive this yet.

Thanks!

Carmen

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC" <[Elisabeth.Hagen@osec.usda.gov](mailto:Elisabeth.Hagen@osec.usda.gov)>  
**To:** "Ramos, Adela - OSEC" <[Adela.Ramos@osec.usda.gov](mailto:Adela.Ramos@osec.usda.gov)>, "(b) (6)" <[REDACTED]@osec.usda.gov>, "Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS" <[Carmen.Rottenberg@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Carmen.Rottenberg@fsis.usda.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Lean Finely Textured Beef

Please make sure this gets handled through appropriate channels at FSIS and Dept. Thanks

Elisabeth Hagen, M.D.  
Under Secretary, Food Safety  
USDA  
202-720-0350

From: Schuchart, Cathy [<mailto:CSCHUCHART@schoolnutrition.org>]  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:52 AM  
To: Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC  
Cc: "(b) (6)" <[REDACTED]> - OSEC  
Subject: Lean Finely Textured Beef

Dr. Hagen:

Please find attached a letter from SNA CEO Frank DiPasquale concerning the LFTB issue.

Thank you, Cathy

Cathy Schuchart  
Staff Vice President  
Child Nutrition and Policy Center  
School Nutrition Association  
120 Waterfront Street, Suite 300  
National Harbor, MD 20745

From:  
To:

(b) (6)  
(b) (6)

Bcc:  
Subject:  
Date:

(b) (6) - FSIS  
Fwd: Major Retailers Discontinue "Pink Slime" Beef Items; NECS Names Top Operators  
Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:40:08 PM

---

Good Afternoon-

Although this comes as no great surprise, I thought I would forward the Griffin E-News article regarding top New England Operators deciding to discontinue selling LFBT.  
Be Well.

dhc

(b) (6) @aol.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Griffin E-News <noreply@griffinconnect.com>

To: (b) (6) @aol.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 27, 2012 1:30 am

Subject: Major Retailers Discontinue 'Pink Slime' Beef Items; NECS Names Top Operators

[View this email with images.](#)

From: (b) (6)  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Fwd: Pink Slime by USDA Design  
Date: Sunday, March 25, 2012 8:33:54 PM

---

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Munsell** (b) (6) @midrivers.com >  
Date: Sun, Mar 25, 2012 at 3:14 PM  
Subject: Pink Slime by USDA Design  
To:

Everyone:

The media has been awash with a plethora of articles about "***Pink Slime***", referring to treatment of beef trimmings with ammonia hydroxide. I suggest that the real issue is not the chemical treatment, but why such treatments are deemed necessary on meat coursing through commerce in containers proudly bearing the official USDA Mark of Inspection. Realizing these trimmings had already been "*USDA Inspected and Passed*", how can USDA classify such trimmings as "*High Risk*", and why must these approved trimmings be further purified? Last Friday, Food Safety News published my brief comments which address these troubling questions. You won't like what you read.

<http://johnmunsell.com/blog/?p=100>



From:

(b) (6) @comcast.net

To:

(b) (6)

Subject:

Fwd: Pink Slime Video

Date:

Saturday, March 31, 2012 12:24:45 AM

---

For your info.....

---

**From:**

**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 7:41:45 PM

**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Video

I don't know how many of you have seen this uproar on the television about "pink slime" but here is a video that describes what it is and how it is manufactured. I personally do not see the big deal with its use BUT I believe it should be declared on the label. What actually is being done with this is the regular beef trimmings are put through the centrifuge where most of the fat is separated from the lean making the end product have a much higher lean to fat ratio and therefore making it more costly to buy. This leaner product can then be blended with regular beef trimmings to make that end product higher lean ground beef. This would allow say a 70 percent lean, 30 percent fat grind to be blended with this Lean Finely Textured Beef to make the end product an 80% lean, 20% fat product which would be more profitable.

As I stated this is all wholesome, edible product that would probably go into ground beef anyway so I see no big deal with it other than declaring it on the ingredient label so a concerned consumer would know.

(b) (6)

<http://news.yahoo.com/video/health-15749655/pink-slime-factory-a-look-inside-28776185.html>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Pink Slime.. How can they be allowed to put this stuff in a package and sell it ...  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:59:58 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

### Sender's Comment

for your response

### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @hotmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

### Reference #120319-000061

**Summary:** Pink Slime.. How can they be allowed to put this stuff in a package and sell it ...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/19/2012 09:50 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/19/2012 09:50 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

#### Customer By Web Form

03/19/2012 09:50 PM

Pink Slime..  
How can they be allowed to put this stuff in a package and sell it to us without telling us its in there.  
I dont want to eat it. I feel I have a right to know whats in the package I pay my hard earned money to buy.  
To me its not just the question, Is it safe? But I want to fully understand what im paying for.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Please respond to the news regarding the labeling of ground beef with pink slime...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 7:42:38 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @aol.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000081

**Summary:** Please respond to the news regarding the labeling of ground beef with pink slime...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Product Level 1:** Labeling  
**Category Level 1:** Ground Beef  
**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 07:16 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 07:42 AM  
**Status:** Referred  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 07:16 PM

Please respond to the news regarding the labeling of ground beef with pink slime. I cannot fathom eating this, and feel I have a right to know.

Karen Young  
700 E Broadway  
Waukesha, Wi. 53186

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Please tell me the USDA's position on the meat extender called "pink slime." Is ...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:22:07 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.  
Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @comcast.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000086

**Summary:** Please tell me the USDA's position on the meat extender called "pink slime." Is ...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Product Level 1:** Labeling  
**Category Level 1:** Ground Beef  
**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 08:06 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 08:21 AM  
**Status:** Referred  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 08:06 PM

Please tell me the USDA's position on the meat extender called "pink slime." Is it approved for food use? How is it produced? Thank you.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: re: Pink Slime I respectfully request that all Pink Slime products be removed as...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:55:02 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@cmcast.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120315-000005

**Summary:** re: Pink Slime I respectfully request that all Pink Slime products be removed as...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/15/2012 07:18 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/15/2012 07:18 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/15/2012 07:18 AM

re: Pink Slime

I respectfully request that all Pink Slime products be removed as filler from our food supply.

Please take on the motto of other countries "It has not been proven to be safe" vs the USA motto "It has not been proven to cause harm" Lets be the example for the world vs the careless country.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: re: Whistleblowers: 70 percent of U.S. ground beef contains 'pink slime' Dea...  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:06:37 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @earthmeasure.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000048

**Summary:** re: Whistleblowers: 70 percent of U.S. ground beef contains 'pink slime' Dea...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 01:49 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 01:49 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 01:49 PM

re: Whistleblowers: 70 percent of U.S. ground beef contains 'pink slime'

Dear Assholes,  
So I have been feeding this "pink slime" shit to my children, my wife and myself, and friends?

Question: Who do I sue?  
Would appreciate name, office, address.

God dammit, what happened to your souls??

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FWD: So why doesn't the USDA require that labels on ground beef include the fact that...  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:03:07 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @hotmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120312-000065

**Summary:** So why doesn't the USDA require that labels on ground beef include the fact that...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/12/2012 09:16 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 09:16 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/12/2012 09:16 PM

So why doesn't the USDA require that labels on ground beef include the fact that it contains this disgusting "pink slime" filler that many of us just do not want to eat?

From: (b) (6) @aol.com  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Cc: (b) (6) @uga.edu  
Subject: Fwd: THE DOCTORS Investigate: What's Really in Your Food!  
Date: Friday, February 24, 2012 3:01:35 PM

---

Oh boy...here we go! Just wanted to give my colleagues involved in food safety science a heads up on this episode of The Doctors....in case you were not aware.

Since when is Chef Rocco DiSpirito a food scientist?

First Dr. Oz and arsenic in apple juice, now this.

Please feel free to forward to colleagues.

(b) (6)

---

From: (b) (6) @MPRM.com  
To: (b) (6) @carolynoneil.com  
Sent: 2/24/2012 2:49:35 P.M. Eastern Standard Time  
Subj: THE DOCTORS Investigate: What's Really in Your Food!

Hi there,

It's been four years since *Food Inc.* lifted the veil on America's food industry and exposed how the nation's food suppliers put profit ahead of the health of the consumer. But Americans are still being served harmful foods including burgers made out of pink slime, chicken "marinated" in chlorine and injected with salt water with sodium content equivalent to a serving of fries, artificial flavoring in ice cream that is otherwise used in lice killer and carcinogens in bread commonly found on the kitchen table – all government sanctioned ingredients.

On Monday, February 27, the hosts of the Emmy Award-winning syndicated talk show THE DOCTORS, along with special guest and celebrity chef Rocco DiSpirito, take a closer look at American food staples and examines the harmful additives and processes used to prepare them. Please feel free to share these highlights with your viewers:

**Burgers\*** – Would you eat a burger made out of "pink slime"—the name given to the mechanically separated meat that's treated with ammonia hydroxide to kill bacteria like E-coli? McDonald's, Taco Bell and Burger King, once purveyors of pink slime, say they have discontinued their use of this meat, made from discarded beef (i.e. everything else from the cow that had been deemed inedible), but who still does? Schools serve it up daily in kids' lunches.

**Chicken** –To disinfect and cool chicken post slaughter, chickens are often soaked in a chlorine bath with a water-to-chlorine ratio up to 50 times more potent than the local swimming pool. Then, to help hide the chlorine taste, the chickens are "plumped" with salt water, making the chickens larger in both weight and price. Plus, via a scientific experiment, THE DOCTORS determined that chlorine baths may not even rid chicken of the bacteria the chlorine bath is supposed to prevent.

**Ice Cream** – One billion gallons of ice cream are consumed by Americans every year. The



most popular flavor? Vanilla. Real vanilla beans are expensive, so to save money, many ice cream makers use a synthetic flavoring called piperonal which is also an ingredient in lice killer.

**Bread** – Many breads are made with potassium bromate, which has been banned in Canada and the UK and has been named a carcinogen by the EPA, but has been approved by the FDA. Plus, azodicarbonamide, found in many manufactured donuts and hamburger buns - as well as plastics, rubber and foam - has been found to aggravate asthma symptoms and contribute respiratory problems in humans.

So, what does THE DOCTORS recommend to avoid these harmful foods?

- Read the fine print on labels!
  - Look for fewer ingredients with words you can pronounce
  - Avoid “artificial flavors” as much as possible
  - Avoid “artificial dyes”, especially Red 40, Blue 1, Yellow 5 & 6

Limit processed foods.

While it's not economical for everyone to buy organic all the time, it's worth spending a few extra dollars on organic poultry and beef.

- To save money, purchase the whole chicken. Boneless, skinless chicken breasts are the most expensive by the pound.
- Check the “sell by” dates, and plan to shop the day before when your butcher is likely to mark down the poultry and meat.
- Consider buying direct from a farmer's market

Check the sodium levels on fresh and frozen chicken packaging.

- A truly natural chicken breast has 50 to 75 mg. of sodium. If there's more than that, the bird has been “plumped”.

Cook for your family.

- If you want to know what's in your food, make it yourself.
- It's a great way to bond with your children and teach them about health.

Visit [www.thedoctorstv.com](http://www.thedoctorstv.com) for a cheat sheet that lists the harmful additives often hidden on food labels as well as a complete list of common additives to avoid. Also find a recipe for a delicious homemade, super low-calorie ice cream by Rocco DiSpirito.

Please feel free to use the photo below. Video clips are also available upon request.

Thanks,

Traci

\*Below is a photo of a 12 year-old burger THE DOCTORS' Dr. Jim Sears uses in nutrition lectures. Not even mold has grown on the meat because of all the added chemicals in there!



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: This isn't a question... it is a demand. I demand that you people start treating...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:34:11 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** public@pipercomputerservices.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120315-000070

**Summary:** This isn't a question... it is a demand. I demand that you people start treating...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/15/2012 08:47 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/15/2012 08:47 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/15/2012 08:47 PM

This isn't a question... it is a demand. I demand that you people start treating the food industry like they were putting their food on your own children's tables. This "pink-slime" stuff has got to stop. I mean, saying "it is beef" is just wrong. My SHIT was once beef, too, but I don't want to be force-fed that either! Get with it. YOU work for US!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FWD: What beef companies do not allow pink slime in ground beef? Why don't you stop t...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:52:40 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @cox.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000071

**Summary:** What beef companies do not allow pink slime in ground beef? Why don't you stop t...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 04:09 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 04:09 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/08/2012 04:09 PM

What beef companies do not allow pink slime in ground beef? Why don't you stop this practice immediately?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FWD: What companies are approved by the USDA to have PINK SLIME in them?  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:54:47 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached

thankk you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @cox.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000088

**Summary:** What companies are approved by the USDA to have PINK SLIME in them?  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 09:35 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 09:35 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/08/2012 09:35 PM

What companies are approved by the USDA to have PINK SLIME in them?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What in the hell are you people thinking? Approving boneless lean beef trimmings...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:24:01 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @fidnet.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000089

**Summary:** What in the hell are you people thinking?  
Approving boneless lean beef trimmings...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 08:42 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 08:42 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 08:42 PM

What in the hell are you people thinking? Approving boneless lean beef trimmings AKA "pink slime." You people are nuts. You're supposed to be protecting us from stuff like this. I know it's about money and politics. You've kowtowed to the beef industry. What total BULLSHIT--maybe you should approve BS to go into the food we eat cause that's what "pink slime" is.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: what is it going to take to remove the "pink slime" from american food? second, ...  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:53:02 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @gmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120312-000052

**Summary:** what is it going to take to remove the "pink slime" from american food? second, ...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/12/2012 04:53 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 04:53 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/12/2012 04:53 PM

what is it going to take to remove the "pink slime" from american food? second, what is it going to take to finally stop using hydrogenated oils in american food? reason why this country is so unhealthy is you have that crap in foods. both should be banned immediately.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What is pink slime? How much ammonia hydroxide is used per 100 pounds of beef to ...  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 4:18:56 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @stanwood.wednet.edu  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120203-000038

**Summary:** What is pink slime? How much ammonia hydroxide is used per 100 pounds of beef to ...  
**Rule State:** 999.1 Expert Assign Queue  
**Product Level 1:** Foodborne Organisms  
**Product Level 2:** E. coli O157:H7  
**Date Created:** 02/03/2012 02:57 PM  
**Last Updated:** 02/03/2012 02:57 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

02/03/2012 02:57 PM

What is pink slime?  
How much ammonia hydroxide is used per 100 pounds of beef to kill bacteria?



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FWD: What is pink slime? What is it used in besides ground beef?  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:54:37 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @keloland.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120328-000017

**Summary:** What is pink slime? What is it used in besides ground beef?  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/28/2012 11:41 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/28/2012 11:41 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/28/2012 11:41 AM

What is pink slime?

What is it used in besides ground beef?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What is pink slime? Why is it allowed in beef?  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:21:23 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.  
Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @sbcglobal.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000084

**Summary:** What is pink slime? Why is it allowed in beef?  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Product Level 1:** Labeling  
**Category Level 1:** Ground Beef  
**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 07:37 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 08:20 AM  
**Status:** Referred  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 07:37 PM

What is pink slime? Why is it allowed in beef?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What is pink slime?  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 4:03:13 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120316-000020

**Summary:** What is pink slime?  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/16/2012 01:23 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/16/2012 01:23 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/16/2012 01:23 PM

What is pink slime?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: what is the truth about msm and msp are there organs and all parts of animal in ...  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:59:41 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @comcast.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120320-000075

**Summary:** what is the truth about msm and msp are there organs and all parts of animal in ...  
**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress  
**Product Level 1:** Additives  
**Product Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/20/2012 09:40 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/20/2012 09:40 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/20/2012 09:40 PM

what is the truth about msm and msp are there organs and all parts of animal in hamburg like hearts and such and how do you know , also what is the pink slime for can you buy hamburg with out it what does it do that they have to put it in product. thank you

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What is the USDA definition of "Beef"? If Pink Slime is "Beef then what about ho...  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:23:11 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @hotmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120313-000005

**Summary:** What is the USDA definition of "Beef"? If Pink Slime is "Beef then what about ho...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/13/2012 08:57 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/13/2012 08:57 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/13/2012 08:57 AM

What is the USDA definition of "Beef"? If Pink Slime is "Beef then what about hoofs and teeth. Can those be added to ground "Beef" without any labeling? How much ammonia is allowed in ground "Beef"?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What kind of conscientious moral principle did the former undersecretary used to...  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:58:51 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @wowway.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000005

**Summary:** What kind of conscientious moral principle did the former undersecretary used to...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 04:55 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 04:55 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 04:55 AM

What kind of conscientious moral principle did the former undersecretary used to allow pink slime to be added to ground beef. This is fraud, to allow the sale of a substitute for a product. The least moral think you could have done is to label it and let consumers have a choice to buy or not to buy. Who ever is responsible should be prosecuted. The bottom 80% of the population have been deceived, they have been paying for a product that has been miss represented as pure ground beef.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What stores sell the ground beef that has pink slime that was in the news last w...  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:44:47 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @charter.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120322-000067

**Summary:** What stores sell the ground beef that has pink slime that was in the news last w...  
**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress  
**Product Level 1:** Additives  
**Product Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/22/2012 11:36 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/22/2012 11:36 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/22/2012 11:36 PM

What stores sell the ground beef that has pink slime that was in the news last week... thanks Henry.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: What the hell , I thought the USDA was suppose to be keeping our food safe , Pin...  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:25:29 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @att.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120322-000054

**Summary:** What the hell , I thought the USDA was suppose to be keeping our food safe , Pin...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/22/2012 06:53 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/22/2012 06:53 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/22/2012 06:53 PM

What the hell , I thought the USDA was suppose to be keeping our food safe , Pink Slime beef , really , It needs a label if its not real beef . Come on now how could you be allowing companys to do this to us , you are suppose to be keeping our food safe to eat not letting company put in stuff like this . I am outraged by this No more hamburger for me till I know what I am really getting . Its a really sad day when something so american as a hamburger is not safe to eat.



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: When will the USDA protect U.S. citizens from things like PINK SLIME in our grou...  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:03:49 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

### Sender's Comment

for your response

### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

### Reference #120312-000066

**Summary:** When will the USDA protect U.S. citizens from things like PINK SLIME in our grou...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/12/2012 09:22 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 09:22 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

#### Customer By Web Form

03/12/2012 09:22 PM

When will the USDA protect U.S. citizens from things like PINK SLIME in our ground beef. Hard to believe my taxes go to a department that I expect to protect me, but instead the USDA is trying to poison me and my family. I'm sure another corrupt government official is making a pile of cash off of this too. When will somebody put a end to this corruption?

I now have zero trust in the USDA!!

Thanks

Mark Scribner

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: When will the use of pink slime in a beef product be put on the label? Thanks  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:40:52 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @comcast.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000085

**Summary:** When will the use of pink slime in a beef product be put on the label? Thanks  
**Rule State:** 999.1 Expert Assign Queue  
**Product Level 1:** Labeling  
**Product Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 07:16 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 07:16 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/08/2012 07:16 PM

When will the use of pink slime in a beef product be put on the label?  
Thanks

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Where can I complain about "Pink Slime" in hamburger? You will allow this DOG FO...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:49:37 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @aol.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000027

**Summary:** Where can I complain about "Pink Slime" in hamburger? You will allow this DOG FO...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 11:36 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 11:36 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/08/2012 11:36 AM

Where can I complain about "Pink Slime" in hamburger? You will allow this DOG FOOD to be fed to our children? This agency needs to be revamped if this is the best it can do. How can we trust what YOU say is safe in our food?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Where the hell do you get of censoring a question when you don't like it like th...  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:32:14 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Tina

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @msn.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120201-000076

**Summary:** Where the hell do you get of censoring a question when you don't like it like th...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 02/01/2012 05:37 PM  
**Last Updated:** 02/01/2012 05:37 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

02/01/2012 05:37 PM

Where the hell do you get of censoring a question when you don't like it like the one I was asking about how you think its perfectly fine to produce food products with pink slime in them. You call it food when no self respecting human would consider it anything like food. Please let me know what food producers are using soilent green in their products when you decide to approve it.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FWD: Who can I contact to protest the usda approval of the pink slime meat additive? ...  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:37:13 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@tampabay.rr.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120314-000002

**Summary:** Who can I contact to protest the usda approval of the pink slime meat additive? ...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/14/2012 01:04 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/14/2012 01:04 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/14/2012 01:04 AM

Who can I contact to protest the usda approval of the pink slime meat additive?  
This is disgusting. Safe or not Americans do not want waste materials added to our food.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why are you such a useless organization when it comes to determining what should...  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:35:38 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120313-000050

**Summary:** Why are you such a useless organization when it comes to determining what should...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/13/2012 07:08 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/13/2012 07:08 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/13/2012 07:08 PM

Why are you such a useless organization when it comes to determining what should and should not be part of our food supply?

In our candy we have all kinds of gross items such as beetles, hair, insect eggs that are given a scientific name in order to hide what the ingredients are?

In our meat, we have 'pink slime' which you approve!!

In school, you set kids up to be fast food consumers with disgusting nuggets, tater tots, pizza and consider french fries a vegetable!

You are utterly useless. I don't know why on earth you get our taxes.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why aren't you demanding the listing of "pink slime" as a additive to american f...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 7:41:39 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @mac.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000079

**Summary:** Why aren't you demanding the listing of "pink slime" as a additive to american f...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 06:51 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 06:51 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 06:51 PM

Why aren't you demanding the listing of "pink slime" as a additive to american food. I will never again buy american hamberger until you make this right. You are here to protect us and you do nothing but poison us.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why did the usda buy 7 million pounds, & approve of using a beef product known a...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:14:28 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000071

**Summary:** Why did the usda buy 7 million pounds, & approve of using a beef product known a...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 05:20 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 05:20 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 05:20 PM

Why did the usda buy 7 million pounds, & approve of using a beef product known as pink slime for used in our public schools. How much do they know about the side effects of using a product that is "sterilized" with ammonia before human consumption, & why is it ok not to inform the public of what they are consuming? it may not be an ingredient but it does get mixed in to the "slime" therefore consumed by humans.

Looking forward to your reply sincerely very concerned citizen.



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why do I not have a right to know if the ground beef i buy contains pink slime? ...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:48:33 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120314-000066

**Summary:** Why do I not have a right to know if the ground beef i buy contains pink slime? ...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/14/2012 11:56 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/14/2012 11:56 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/14/2012 11:56 PM

Why do I not have a right to know if the ground beef i buy contains pink slime?  
Ammonia treated meat is unacceptable. Do the people who approve this get bonus money for exposing my children to pink slime.(poison)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: why do you allow meat packers to put pink slime meat in our hamburger. I know yo...  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:04:42 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank You.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @goldennugget.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120202-000021

**Summary:** why do you allow meat packers to put pink slime meat in our hamburger. I know yo...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 02/02/2012 11:15 AM  
**Last Updated:** 02/02/2012 11:15 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

02/02/2012 11:15 AM

why do you allow meat packers to put pink slime meat in our hamburger. I know you will not answer this. you should be ashamed of your greedy selves.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why does the USDA allow "pink slime" to be a part of our meet processing. Is is ...  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:46:19 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120202-000061

**Summary:** Why does the USDA allow "pink slime" to be a part of our meet processing. Is is ...  
**Rule State:** 999.1 Expert Assign Queue  
**Product Level 1:** Additives  
**Product Level 2:** Ammonium Hydroxide  
**Category Level 1:** Meat and Poultry in General  
**Date Created:** 02/02/2012 03:22 PM  
**Last Updated:** 02/02/2012 03:45 PM  
**Status:** Referred  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

02/02/2012 03:22 PM

Why does the USDA allow "pink slime" to be a part of our meet processing. Is is possible to remove; or, at least might it be labeled so consumers can avoid products processed this way? See video:

<http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/01/31/10282876-mcd>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why doesn't the meat filler known by many as "pink slime" have to be on the label?  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:48:43 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@cortland.edu  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120312-000039

**Summary:** Why doesn't the meat filler known by many as "pink slime" have to be on the label?  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/12/2012 03:58 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 03:58 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/12/2012 03:58 PM

Why doesn't the meat filler known by many as "pink slime" have to be on the label?  
We should know what we're eating.

I don't care if you think it's SAFE most of us do not want it in our food.

I will be investing in a meat grinder and grinding my own ground beef from now on.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why is is that there is nothing about pink slime (LFTB) on this website, even un...  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 10:16:08 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120330-000002

**Summary:** Why is is that there is nothing about pink slime (LFTB) on this website, even un...  
**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress  
**Product Level 1:** Labeling  
**Product Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/30/2012 08:57 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/30/2012 08:57 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/30/2012 08:57 AM

Why is is that there is nothing about pink slime (LFTB) on this website, even under hot topics, when it is clearly in the news right now? Is the FDA covering for the beef industry?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why is it OK to include ammonia in any of the food that we eat (i.e. pink slime/...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:17:02 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@gmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120312-000018

**Summary:** Why is it OK to include ammonia in any of the food that we eat (i.e. pink slime/...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/12/2012 12:41 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 12:41 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/12/2012 12:41 PM

Why is it OK to include ammonia in any of the food that we eat (i.e. pink slime/beef)? Isn't it known to react with water in our bodies to produce ammonium hydroxide (a.k.a. dangerous & corrosive chemical)?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FWD: Why is it that you don't require meat labels to list the ingredient pink slime? ...  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:39:41 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @sbcglobal.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120308-000081

**Summary:** Why is it that you don't require meat labels to list the ingredient pink slime? ...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/08/2012 06:46 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/08/2012 06:46 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/08/2012 06:46 PM

Why is it that you don't require meat labels to list the ingredient pink slime? I don't want to eat pink slime and I believe ALL meat labels should have to list this ingredient!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why is pink slime allowed to be used?  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:54:39 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120202-000002

**Summary:** Why is pink slime allowed to be used?  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 02/02/2012 01:16 AM  
**Last Updated:** 02/02/2012 01:16 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

02/02/2012 01:16 AM

Why is pink slime allowed to be used?



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why is the USDA allowing grocery stores to include so called "pink slime" in gro...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:32:56 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @hotmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120310-000025

**Summary:** Why is the USDA allowing grocery stores to include so called "pink slime" in gro...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/10/2012 04:20 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/10/2012 04:20 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/10/2012 04:20 PM

Why is the USDA allowing grocery stores to include so called "pink slime" in ground beef without labeling the product as such and indicating the percentage included. I do not want eat ground beef with this product and I have told my regular supermarket (Stop and Shop) that. I am very grossed out that this product has been included in my meat without my knowledge. I don't care that it is "meat" and that it is "safe" this falls under the umbrella of informed consent--I was not informed and I do not consent. Really!!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why is the USDA allowing this "Pink Slime" in our meats? Kids meals at school?? ...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:27:02 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@gmail.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000093

**Summary:** Why is the USDA allowing this "Pink Slime" in our meats? Kids meals at school?? ...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Product Level 1:** Additives  
**Product Level 2:** Ammonium Hydroxide  
**Category Level 1:** Beef  
**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 09:36 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 08:26 AM  
**Status:** Referred  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 09:36 PM

Why is the USDA allowing this "Pink Slime" in our meats? Kids meals at school??  
70% of ground beef??!!

And the best question I have: Why is this process of ingredients to produce "Pink Slime" not accounted for in labeling??!!

What is going on with you folks??

How come its all over the news and your blogs, but you fail to bring this matter to your news?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why is the USDA ok with Pink Slime in ground beef? Ok for school lunches? A rend...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:39:39 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @milwpc.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120311-000025

**Summary:** Why is the USDA ok with Pink Slime in ground beef? Ok for school lunches? A rend...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/11/2012 08:54 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/11/2012 08:54 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/11/2012 08:54 PM

Why is the USDA ok with Pink Slime in ground beef? Ok for school lunches? A rendering plant product, formerly only used for dog food.

I don't get it. Other than JoAnn Smith used her position for her own greed.

Is the USDA going to continue on with Pink Slime being OK?

No label for Pink Slime in ground beef. I should know I'm buying Pink Slime!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: why is there "pink slime" allowed to be added in a natural meat product? what va...  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:12:57 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @verizon.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000063

**Summary:** why is there "pink slime" allowed to be added in a natural meat product? what va...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 04:09 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 04:09 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 04:09 PM

why is there "pink slime" allowed to be added in a natural meat product? what value does it have for human consumption ? and effect will have on the human body after being consumed? what safety's are put in force for adding this type of filler and how is it regulated? pink slime was announced on abc news  
<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/is-pink-slime-in-the-beef-at-your-grocery-store/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why is this still allowed??? I am outraged!!!! Gerald Zirnstein grinds his own h...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:29:48 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @verizon.net  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120310-000004

**Summary:** Why is this still allowed??? I am outraged!!!!  
Gerald Zirnstein grinds his own h...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/10/2012 02:45 AM  
**Last Updated:** 03/10/2012 02:45 AM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/10/2012 02:45 AM

Why is this still allowed??? I am outraged!!!!

Gerald Zirnstein grinds his own hamburger these days. Why? Because this former United States Department of Agriculture scientist and, now, whistleblower, knows that 70 percent of the ground beef we buy at the supermarket contains something he calls "pink slime."

"Pink slime" is beef trimmings. Once only used in dog food and cooking oil, the trimmings are now sprayed with ammonia so they are safe to eat and added to most ground beef as a cheaper filler.

It was Zirnstein who, in an USDA memo, first coined the term "pink slime" and is now coming forward to say he won't buy it.

"It's economic fraud," he told ABC News. "It's not fresh ground beef. ... It's a cheap

substitute being added in."

Zirnstein and his fellow USDA scientist, Carl Custer, both warned against using what the industry calls "lean finely textured beef," widely known now as "pink slime," but their government bosses overruled them.

If you have questions about "pink slime," email us at [ABC.WorldNews@abc.com](mailto:ABC.WorldNews@abc.com).

According to Custer, the product is not really beef, but "a salvage product ... fat that had been heated at a low temperature and the excess fat spun out."

The "pink slime" is made by gathering waste trimmings, simmering them at low heat so the fat separates easily from the muscle, and spinning the trimmings using a centrifuge to complete the separation. Next, the mixture is sent through pipes where it is sprayed with ammonia gas to kill bacteria. The process is completed by packaging the meat into bricks. Then, it is frozen and shipped to grocery stores and meat packers, where it is added to most ground beef.

The "pink slime" does not have to appear on the label because, over objections of its own scientists, USDA officials with links to the beef industry labeled it meat.

"The under secretary said, 'it's pink, therefore it's meat,'" Custer told ABC News.

ABC News has learned the woman who made the decision to OK the mix is a former undersecretary of agriculture, Joann Smith. It was a call that led to hundred of millions of dollars for Beef Products Inc., the makers of pink slime.

When Smith stepped down from the USDA in 1993, BPI's principal major supplier appointed her to its board of directors, where she made at least \$1.2 million over 17 years.

Smith did not return ABC News' calls for comment and BPI said it had nothing to do with her appointment. The USDA said while her appointment was legal at the time, under current ethics rules Smith could not have immediately joined the board.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why isn't pink slime in ground beef labeled as such? Quit giving the beef indust...  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:00:57 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

for your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120312-000063

**Summary:** Why isn't pink slime in ground beef labeled as such? Quit giving the beef indust...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/12/2012 08:31 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 08:31 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/12/2012 08:31 PM

Why isn't pink slime in ground beef labeled as such? Quit giving the beef industry a reach around and do the right thing....the thing we TAXPAYERS are PAYING YOU to do! No more pink slime in my kids school lunches unless I see Congress eat that garbage themselves!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why won't the USDA label ground beef that contains pink slime, giving consumers ...  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 11:24:19 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see attached inquiry,  
thank you  
AskKaren team

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120318-000009

**Summary:** Why won't the USDA label ground beef that contains pink slime, giving consumers ...  
**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress  
**Product Level 1:** Labeling  
**Product Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/18/2012 02:13 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/18/2012 02:13 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/18/2012 02:13 PM

Why won't the USDA label ground beef that contains pink slime, giving consumers the choice?



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Why wouldn't you guys talk to ABC News about pink slime added to meat after trea...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:31:16 AM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @twcnny.rr.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120310-000015

**Summary:** Why wouldn't you guys talk to ABC News about pink slime added to meat after trea...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/10/2012 12:53 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/10/2012 12:53 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/10/2012 12:53 PM

Why wouldn't you guys talk to ABC News about pink slime added to meat after treatment with ammonia and radiation. If the kids in schools are getting this junk somebody ought to go after you guys. This is terrible can't anybody not be greedy any longer. What about the older folks and kids why don't you people level with us?

David Quinlan

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Will the new nutrition labels state whether ground beef contains what is being c...  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:34:27 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120312-000031

**Summary:** Will the new nutrition labels state whether ground beef contains what is being c...  
**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress  
**Product Level 1:** Additives  
**Product Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/12/2012 02:26 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/12/2012 02:26 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/12/2012 02:26 PM

Will the new nutrition labels state whether ground beef contains what is being called "pink slime"?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: ye gads you all should be SO ASHAMED to allow pink slime to be placed into meats...  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:07:28 PM

---

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Please see the attached.

Thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@mac.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120309-000053

**Summary:** ye gads you all should be SO ASHAMED to allow pink slime to be placed into meats...  
**Rule State:** 999 - Finished  
**Date Created:** 03/09/2012 02:19 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/09/2012 02:19 PM  
**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/09/2012 02:19 PM

ye gads you all should be SO ASHAMED to allow pink slime to be placed into meats....how dare you..... a lot of us are now boycotting grocery store meats and fast food chains due to this abusive use of our foods.....this will not go away....DO SOMETHING, PLEASE instead of sitting on your butts and allowing such things to happen and tell the American people their food is SAFE....b.s.

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Fyi - congressional letters on pink slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 6:45:17 PM

---

Just fyi - saw a reference in a story that Rep. Pingree is sending a letter to vilsack to ban pink slime in schools. Also saw a reference that Sen. Menendez was doing the same.

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FYI - tweet on blog  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:52:10 PM

---

Just FYI – here's a tweet that was posted a few minutes ago. (emphasis added).  
Highlighting because of the sentence in the blog it references and interpretations of it.  
Just FYI.

[Miki Wright @farminthehood](#)

- [Reply](#)
- [Retweet](#)
- [Favorite](#)
- [Open](#)

USDA RE: Pink Slime <http://1.usa.gov/G0tuql> "Choosing food to serve is a personal decision" How about **giving us a choice–label** both **it** & GMO

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FYI  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:16:52 AM  
**Attachments:** [Pink slime 3.docx](#)

---

In case people start firing questions regarding this sh...uff.

(b) (6)

CSI, IIC Est's. 10269, 40040 and

00676

USDA FSIS FO

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Tuverson, Robert - FSIS](#); [Van, Diane - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FYI: Ammonium Hydroxide stats for inquiries to MPH and Ask Karen - no change really  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 5:37:31 PM

---

Hi,

Just in case you get asked the Hotline and Ask Karen have been averaging about 5 calls and emails a day related to the ammonium hydroxide (pink slime) issue. The peak was last week with 17 emails to Ask Karen and 13 calls to the Hotline on Friday. It's steady but not increasing. I don't have exact numbers for the webmail and MPH box but it's about 2-5 a day respectively. All emails are being forwarded to ECIMS.

Callers mostly want to vent, so we are not really answering questions but telling them we are recording their comments in our database that is periodically reviewed by the agency.

- Callers would like the process stopped or have the product labeled.
- One caller not happy with AMS decision to allow schools to opt out of buying it. He thought that was "insane" Stating, "You are not going to give it to kids in schools, but you can still end up buying it from the store and still giving it to your children".

Have a good weekend.

See you in April.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** FYI: I forwarded stats of pink slime to Brian already  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:12:47 PM

---

Hi,

I cleaned up the report a bit and forwarded it to Brian.

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov



**From:** [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Gould Mid-Year Accomplishments Report  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:52:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [AccomplishmentsFY12 - Gould.doc](#)

---

Here you are!

Christopher Gould

Congressional & Public Affairs Office

USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service

202-690-4546 (desk)

(b) (6) (cell)

202-720-5704 (fax)

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often   **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature   **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** [Cheslak, Cyrus \(Collins\)](#)  
**To:** [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Ground Beed additives  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:59:02 AM

---

Hi Chris,

Do you have a white paper or other info on the so-called "pink slime" that USDA is apparently allowing schools to purchase? Anything on the safety of the product or FSIS concerns about it?

Cyrus E. Cheslak  
Legislative Assistant  
Senator Susan M. Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-4884

**From:** [Marti Peters](#)  
**To:** [mph hotline.fsis@usda.gov](mailto:mph hotline.fsis@usda.gov)  
**Bcc:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**Subject:** Ground Beef  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 5:39:08 PM

---

How safe is pink slime in my ground beef which I buy at Safeway?

Marti Peters  
San Jose, CA

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Ground Beef  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:23:32 PM

---

Just FYI – we have about 60 e-mails waiting in the FSIS inbox on “pink slime” in ground beef. (b) (6) and (b) (6) may be able to help in loading these into the folder to save some time.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Happy Monday  
Date: Monday, March 19, 2012 10:01:52 AM

---

Good morning! I hope you had a good weekend.

I'm getting a lot of inquiries about pink slime and can't see that FSIS is saying anything about it at all. Has USDA/FSIS said anything publically about it? Maybe I'm just traumatized from the word pink....I think it happened about 20 years ago when Barbies started appearing at my house.

(b) (6), IIC, CSI

USDA, FSIS

Portland, Oregon

"Today's mighty Oak is  
yesterday's nut who  
stood his ground" - unknown

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** have you had this kind of pink slime question?  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:10:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [FW Message from Internet User - beefalo.msg.msg](#)

---

This person wants to know if it can be used in a certain product. The one in question is "beefalo."

I tried (b) (6). The closest she had was whether or not it could be labeled fresh.

Thanks!

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** help with correspondence: Is Pink Slime allowed to be used in \_\_\_\_\_?  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:28:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [FW Message from Internet User - beefalo.msg.msg](#)

---

Hi,

"Beefalo" is the product in question. I imagine we will be getting questions about other products, if we haven't already. I've asked around the office and it doesn't sound like it. (b) (6) shared with me the information about whether a product containing LFTB could be labeled "fresh." I wasn't comfortably positive I could use that though.

Do you think it would be appropriate to come up with some standard text for whether it can be used in a product?

Thank you!

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Hey  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 2:15:52 PM

---

What's the spring turkey population looking like in Collins? Is (b) (6) looking forward to season? It's not looking too promising down here, I haven't seen many birds at all. Although I was cooking sausage on the grill the other night, all the time listening to a gobbler sounding off numerous times, so there's at least 1 bird to chase. We have an established fisher population around my place, I've been told that they enjoy turkey dinners. I've also been told that they will climb trees and take a turkey right out of the roost at night. I hope that's not what's happening, but not even seeing many in my travels. I have taken several long walks looking for sheds(none found this year) and have seen quite a bit of scratching in some areas so there are a few around.

Other than that not much exciting happening in our lives, girls are doing good in school, both are on the varsity track team and have been having an exceptional season. Last week (b) (6) came in first place in the Heptathlon (seven events) at a meet in West Virginia, see's on cloud nine right now. (b) (6) place second in the shot put at the same meet. To make it even better they both have qualified for the NCCAA national track meet in Chicago in May. (b) (6) is trying to persuade me to go to Chicago.

As far as work AFA has been slow – and now with the pink slime thing it's even slower – I'm told ground beef sales are down 20% nationwide. At the requests of their customers AFA will no longer be using BPI in their products beginning April 4<sup>th</sup> and yes the price for ground beef will be going up.

PHIS and I still have not embraced each other – very laborious when entering tasks and data and at this specific moment I cannot get on the system – receive a System Error message!!! Oh well?

Keep in touch, (b) (6)



**From:** (b) (6) - OCIO-ITS, Beltsville, MD  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** hi, long time no chat  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:48:50 PM

---

You moved to the South building, no?

Did you see this article? <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

(b) (6)

USDA/OCIO/ITS/TSD/DSB/RM

Phacil, Inc

*See the Possibilities*

(b) (6) [@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@wdc.usda.gov)

Location: Beltsville, MD

Phone: (b) (6) (best to email)

[www.phacil.com](http://www.phacil.com)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Hotline Monthly Report February 2012.docx  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 1:59:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [Hotline Monthly Report February 2012.docx](#)

---

Hi (b) (6)

Here's the February Hotline report. Working on the Karen stats now.

**From:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** house rules for pink slime discussions  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 3:39:00 PM

---

Hi Gerri!

I am not sure you have talking pts prepared for this week's meeting (knowing you, you do ☺.) In talking with my colleague, Dirk Fillpot, he mentioned a conversation with AMS about avoiding the "pink slime" discussion during the meeting. As part of the open for the meeting, you may wish to mention that this is *not* a discussion about the so-called pink slime issue. It is Dirk and AMS' contention that your meeting could be monopolized by this issue, so if you cut it off at the beginning, there shouldn't be an expectation that this subject will be broached. I am ccing Dirk in case he wants to jump in.

Linda

*Walinda P. "Linda" West*

Constituent Affairs  
Congressional and Public Affairs Office  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1184  
Washington, DC 20250

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Blackberry: (202) 360-1428  
Fax: (202) 720-5704

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Humboldt Report  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 4:45:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [REPORT OF INVESTIGATION HUMBOLDT, RICK ICS-SIR-12-0033.docx](#)

---

(b) (6)

Investigations Branch

USDA FSIS OPEER ICAD

2404 Leckrone Drive

Plainfield, IL 60586

Office: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: info  
Date: Friday, March 23, 2012 5:36:44 PM

---

Hey girl,

I was just wondering how this pink slime issue is affecting SSI since we know that they used the ammonia treated product in the hamburgers they produce. At least I think they do.

(b) (6) IIC, CSI

BOISE CIRCUIT

1-(b) (6)

I AM NOT YOUR ROLLING WHEELS, I AM THE HIGHWAY, I AM NOT YOUR  
CARPET RIDE, I AM THE SKY, I AM NOT YOUR BLOWING WIND, I AM THE  
LIGHTNING, I AM NOT YOUR AUTUMN MOON, I AM THE NIGHT.

AUDIOSLAVE

REAL EYES, REALIZE, REAL LIES

UKN

NEVER MAKE SOMEONE A PRIORITY WHEN YOU ARE ONLY AN OPTION  
FOR THEM.

UKN

A LIE CAN MAKE IT HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD BEFORE TRUTH HAS  
TIME TO PUT IT'S PANTS ON.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [sandycreekfarms@gmail.com](mailto:sandycreekfarms@gmail.com) (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Information Documents on Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:30:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [LFTB AMI.pdf](#)  
[76330.pdf](#)

---

I can't remember if I sent this to you already. If not....

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** inquiries on pink slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:01:35 PM

---

Please assign all inquiries on pink slime to me. Also, I saw this unassigned call from yesterday – please assign that to me, too. Please focus first on logging in the new calls.  
Thanks

(b) (6) 03/13/2012 2:38 PM (GMT -4:00):

Marialcy Carreno called from KFTV-TV in Fresno, CA requesting an on-camera interview with any Spanish speaking USDA employees in Fresno or the Central Valley (CA) regarding pink slime. They are doing a story on what pink slime is, how's it produced, and why it's in school lunches. If there are no representatives from the Agency to do the interview, a statement in Spanish or English would be okay.

Marialcy Carreno  
office (559) 241 6327; cell (b) (6)  
kftvnews@univision.net

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Interesting article  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:28:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized.htm](#)  
[PHIS Task Library 6\\_29\\_11.pdf](#)

---

(b) (6) I came across an interesting article that is a result of the “pink slime” that’s been in the news lately. The author views are clearly “one sided”, but there are still some interesting things in the article.

I have also attached a pretty good guide to the PHIS tasks. This helps find the information needed to correctly perform the tasks that might be questionable.

I hope you and your family are all doing well, and maybe we will meet again soon.

(b) (6)



**From:** [Kristina Butts](#)  
**To:** [Almanza, Al - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Is this accurate?  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:00:04 AM

---

Was this a vilsack decision or ams or ams/fsis/vilsack? folks are starting to light up my phone so any intel u have wld be great. Thanks!

Pink slime" just went from a simmer to a boil.

In less than a week this month, the stomach-turning epithet for ammonia-treated ground beef filler suddenly became a potent rallying cry by activists fighting to ban the product from supermarket shelves and school lunch trays.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is set to announce Thursday it will offer schools choice in ground beef purchases in response to requests from districts.

Full story here.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/schools-getting-choice-on-1384950.html>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Karl and Gerald  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:08:06 AM

---

Hey (b) (6)

I just have to tell someone that I saw brief interviews with both Carl Custer and Gerald Zirnstein on the national news Wednesday night. They were speaking out about the “pink slime” that USDA allows in ground beef. Apparently the piece generated such a huge response for the network that they did a brief follow piece on it last night. Apparently most viewers wanted to know where to buy ground beef without it.

(b) (6)

Supervisory Microbiologist  
USDA, FSIS, Eastern Laboratory  
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**From:** [Tom Collins](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)  
**Subject:** Labeling Accuracy  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:47:12 AM

---

With all the news about pink slime (I'll call it PS from here on) lately, it made me question which products had it, and which ones didn't. While I trust that PS may be edible, I still think it's gross and would prefer not to eat it.

I recently bought some frozen ground sirloin patties from Kroger (upc: 0 11110 97987 2), thinking that because it said "ground sirloin", and not ground beef, that there wouldn't be any PS in it.

The next day I saw an article quoting Kroger saying that if it's customers wanted to avoid the PS then they needed to buy it's Private Selection brand (<http://consumerist.com/2012/03/kroger-clarifies-which-of-its-ground-beef-products-are-free-of-pink-slime.html>).

So now I'm wondering about the ground sirloin product I just bought the day before. So I called up Kroger's customer support and they confirmed to me that their Kroger brand ground sirloin may contain PS (or course they call it finely textured beef product).

So then I called the USDA to find out if this is allowed. I was told by them that ground sirloin can only contain meat from the sirloin. And that while it is possible for it to contain PS, the PS would have to come from the sirloin only, and wouldn't be very practical.

I'm hoping you can get to the bottom of this. Please keep me informed with the results if you can.

Thanks  
Tom Collins  
(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Language approved for the pink slime letter (Zazzaro)  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:23:09 AM  
**Attachments:** [20120314104419819f11.pdf](#)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Lean Finely Textured Beef "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 8:59:32 AM  
**Importance:** High

---

Good Morning (b) (6)

I will be drafting a letter for the Secretary's signature regarding pink slime. I was informed that you are working on a draft response going to Sen. Grassley. Please forward me a copy of your draft response so I can pull language from it. I greatly appreciate your assistance!

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

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Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

**From:** (b) (6) @gmail.com on behalf of (b) (6)  
**To:** [FSIS Labeling](#); [NACMPI](#); [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#); [consumer@fda.gov](#); [premarket@fda.hhs.gov](#); [FDBinfo@cdph.ca.gov](#)  
**Subject:** Lean finely textured beef aka "Pink Slime" and the Future  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:51:48 PM

---

To whom it may concern:

Today I read that Safeway had decided to stop selling meat that contained "pink slime" which is great news considering that many consumers were going to stop buy their meat because of it.

I hope that you realize that when American's have the real information about what goes into their food they respond in a reasonable and rational way. I am concerned that the government agencies that have been established to protect and inform consumers about what is going into the food supply has become a spokesman for food companies. The response to consumer concern from the USDA has been simply to say "its safe." Whether "pink slim" is safe to ingest or not the fact is that the majority of people would chose not to eat meat that has been treated with ammonia. Yet our government mandated food labels print the euphemism "Lean finely textured beef" which is tells the consumer nothing about the fact that it contains meat treated with ammonia.

In the future it would be appreciated if the FDA and USDA would take a more common sense approach to the names they give processed food by saying what is actually in them. The general guideline of these agencies should be to inform the public about what is going into their food whether it is ammonia, or GMO or some other product that they public might have concerns about. Whether or not a food product is safe is irrelevant to the fact that giving pink slime the name lean finely textured beef does more to protect the bottom line of large food produces than giving the public the information they need to make informed decisions about the food they purchase.

I am not saying arguing that selling lean finely textured beef should be illegal but that the consumers need to be empowered to make the decision for themselves if they want to buy food products that contain ammonia or other know cleaning chemicals.

Sincerely,  
Eric Zandona  
(b) (6)  
San Francisco, CA 94110

**From:** [Ames Perry](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [Canavan, Jeff](#) - FSIS; [Ballard, Tammie](#) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
**Cc:** (b) (6) [@vantagefoods.net](mailto:@vantagefoods.net); (b) (6); (b) (6) [@primelabel.com](mailto:@primelabel.com)  
**Subject:** Lean, Fine Textured Beef (Pink Slime)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:57:10 AM

---

Dear Labeling Staff,

Are you allowing "No LFTB" claims on labels of ground beef? If so how would it need to be stated? What type of information/documentation would the Establishment need to provide to support this claim?

I appreciate your help in this matter.

Ames Perry  
Prime Label Consultants  
(202)546.3333 ext. (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Cc:** Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS  
**Subject:** Letter for OPACE Clearance ECM #7082379  
**Date:** Thursday, December 22, 2011 5:53:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [7082379-Incoming006B0653\[1\].pdf](#)  
[7082379OfficialClearanceSheet\[1\].docx](#)  
[7082379-Draft ResponseMidwest Coalition for Human Rights - Line speeds\[1\]\[1\]\[1\].docx](#)

---

Greg,

Pease review and return w/comment for ECM processing. FYI—LWest cleared this letter for CPAO w/no edits.

(b) (6)

*Food Safety & Inspection Service*

*Congressional & Public Affairs Office*

*Room 1175 South Building*

*Phone:* (b) (6)

*Fax:* (202) 720-5704

(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)



**From:** [Hilary S. Thesmar \(FMI\)](#)  
**To:** ["elisabeth.hagen@usda.gov"](mailto:elisabeth.hagen@usda.gov)  
**Cc:** ["aaron.lavallee@usda.gov"](mailto:aaron.lavallee@usda.gov); Blake, Carol - FSIS; West, Walinda - FSIS; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) (FMI)  
**Subject:** Letter from FMI and request for a meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:05:06 PM

---

Dr. Elisabeth Hagen  
Under Secretary for Food Safety  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dear Dr. Hagen,

As the trade association for America's supermarkets and grocery stores, Food Marketing Institute (FMI) seeks to be a resource to our members when issues arise, such as the recent consumer concern regarding lean finely textured beef (LFTB) – characterized in the media as “pink slime.” FMI and our members have come to rely upon U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) timely response in such instances to be a consumer-trusted source of information on matters pertaining to food integrity and safety.

FMI recently hosted a number of conference calls to address consumer questions that members were receiving about LFTB and a recurring theme of these calls was, “Where is USDA on this issue?” For a week, we did not have an answer to that question, with the exception of a very brief media statement that - with all due respect - fell short of addressing the magnitude of consumer concern this topic generated.

For days after the story became a consumer concern, USDA's voice was noticeably missing from this conversation. We wish to report that the agency's silence on this issue left our members scrambling for a credible voice on a rather complex subject, because the voice we had come to trust wasn't speaking.

This slow response has not been FMI's past experience of USDA and we write as concerned friends, to respectfully request a meeting where we can discuss this matter and explore ways we might be of help in your work to expedite agency responses in future instances of consumer questions about food safety, quality or integrity. We were very appreciative of the Secretary's office giving us advance warning of the FNS procurement release and announcement.

Sincerely,

Hilary Thesmar, PhD., R.D.,  
FMI, Vice President for Food Safety

Sue Borra, R.D.  
FMI, Sr. Vice President for Communications

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI  
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 1:26:31 PM

---

*Well—Freezer Queen when they were here on the lake in Buffalo used to make 28 ounce entrees of chicken nuggets cooked in the oil cooker. Guess what they were made of Dr. Groff? Mechanically separated chicken and frozen chicken breast skin. Used to do the combos of chicken frames at Deringers's then Wally's sent to Burlington Ontario to have the chicken meat sprayed off into mechanically separated chicken!*

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 1:18 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI

Yeah, it's turned into a nightmare for sure. I was totally unaware of the process, but I am glad that I have access to the resources to learn about it and then pass along my knowledge to family and friends. Hopefully the Agency can make strides to better educate the public before the next big whirlwind (hotdogs? Lunchmeats? Chicken nuggets?)

(b) (6), DVM

Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian

USDA-FSIS-OFO Albany District - Buffalo Circuit

Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

*Changes come like waves in the ocean. We can either ride each wave and have some fun with it, or let it pound us into the sand. Fithier way, the waves keep coming!*

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 12:35 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI

*Thanks Dr. (b) (6) I have done some research on it as of course my friends have been asking questions and supermarkets here are all now claiming they will not be using it. UGH!*

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 11:39 AM  
To: (b) (6) n,

(b) (6)

- FSIS

Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI

Please take some time to look at this if you have any questions or have been asked about LFTB (aka "Pink Slime"). Feel free to pass these links along to colleagues, establishments, friends, family, and anyone else you want to know the "truth" about this product:

AMI has put together a great list of resources to educate about LFTB, including Q&As, Fact Sheets, YouTube Videos, and interviews, and information about Ammonium Hydroxide use/safety.

<http://www.meatsafety.org/>

On their website, you'll find a link to this video "The Facts About Lean Finely Textured Beef", produced by AMI:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDIPjmsKeh8&list=UUahyGGFVpVawZRqFmolyn6g&index=1&feature=plcp>

Finally you can check out this website, created by BPI, for even more information:

<http://pinkslimeisamyth.com>

(b) (6), DVM

Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian

USDA-FSIS-OFO Albany District - Buffalo Circuit

Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

*Changes come like waves in the ocean. We can either ride each wave and have some fun with it, or let it pound us into the sand. Either way, the waves keep coming!*

From: [Stan Wallen](#)  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: LFTB  
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:53:10 PM  
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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## Activist Watch

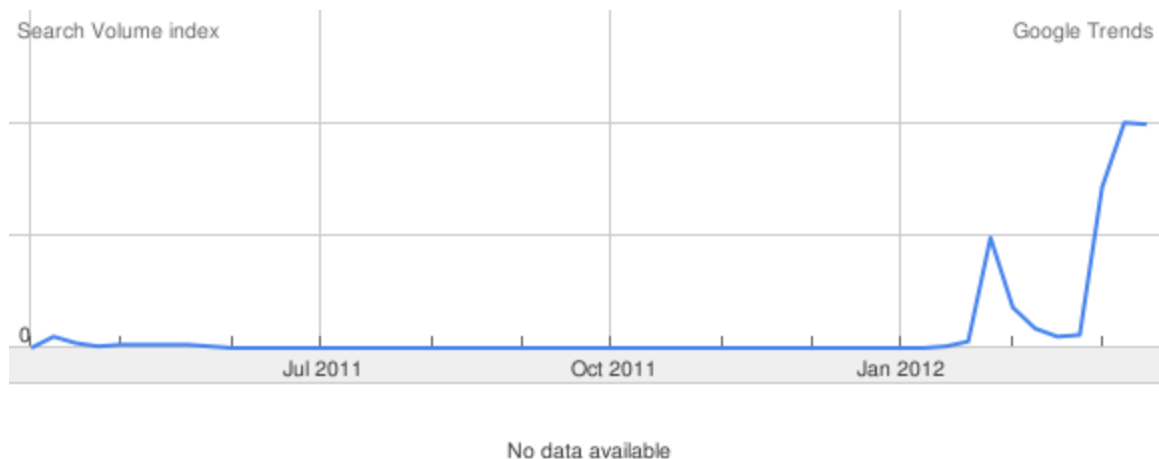
By: [Sarah Hubbard](#)

[Send a Tip](#)

### What's the Beef With "Pink Slime"?

(The views and opinions expressed in this blog are strictly those of the author.)

"Pink slime" (more properly known as lean finely textured beef, or LFTB for short) seems to be everywhere these days. And not in a good way. Just check out the tremendous spike in the number of Google searches for the loaded term over the past month:



A petition on Change.org has more than 257,000 signatures urging the USDA to stop using the product in food destined for the National School Lunch Program. ABC News and other mainstream media have questioned its safety. Social media has fanned the flames and provided would-be activists a platform that they never had before.

The result? Companies like Safeway and McDonald's have dropped the product. The maker of LFTB suspended operations on Monday at three of four plants. Each plant provided jobs for at least 200 workers.

But how did this all get started?

LFTB has been around for years; it is a low-cost ingredient that is made from leftover meat trimmings that is heated, compressed, and exposed to ammonium hydroxide gas to kill bacteria, such as E. coli and salmonella.

LFTB got its big screen debut in 2008 during a segment on *Food, Inc.* The company Beef Products Inc. (BPI) welcomed the cameras in to one of its facilities and proudly stated that

most hamburgers in the U.S. contain their product.

Celebri-chef Jamie Oliver took a swing at “pink slime” on the 2011 season premiere of *Food Revolution* program. The segment has been watched 1.2 million times on Youtube and infers that liquid ammonia used for household cleaning is poured onto beef to make the product – which is not the case at all.

Now, here’s the irony. “Pink slime” isn’t even slimy. (The company has put together a good resource guide online at <http://beefisbeef.com/>. )

And more importantly, to the best of my knowledge, no one has been harmed by eating LFTB. Far from it. In 2007 BPI was awarded the International Association for Food Protection's most prestigious award, "The Black Pearl", in recognition of its efforts to ensure and enhance food safety and quality.

Nancy Donley, who serves as a volunteer spokeswoman for STOP Foodborne Illness organization – she suffered the unthinkable horror of losing her child to E. coli contaminated beef in 1993 – recently penned an eye-opening op-ed for the Food Safety News.

In it, she writes:

“I am very concerned that mis-categorization campaigns such as this "pink slime" campaign will cause well-intentioned companies such as BPI to cease innovations for developing better food safety technologies and strategies. [...] If this does in fact happen, and promising technologies get thwarted, we, the American public, will be the losers.”

This is another reminder that sometimes science isn’t enough. Consumers are influenced greatly by the traditional and social media. Those involved in the food and agriculture industries must make an effort to connect with the public on a variety of levels to help them better understand where their food comes from.

March 27, 2012

Dr. Stan Wallen  
Director of Food Safety & Quality Assurance

**Catelli Brothers, Inc.**

50 Ferry Avenue  
Collingswood, NJ 08103  
856-869-9293 X243 Office

(b) (6) Cell

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Lavalley, Aaron](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** link to Seattle story on "pink slime"  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:45:08 AM

---

Here's the story that ran last night on BPI's beef product (including a link to the video). The video leads with the sensational claims by Jamie Oliver and the "ick" factor of the product. The company doesn't attempt to defend its product, nor is it our role to defend their product. The story includes quotes from a school district official and our quote highlighting our mutual goal of ensuring that the food provided to kids at school is safe. The reporter is confused about what the product actually is (although I tried to walk her generally through the process), but, again, the company apparently did not make any efforts to educate her - at least she knows there was some tie-in with the use of ammonia to improving food safety. Not outstanding, but at least it gets our point across.

<http://www.q13fox.com/news/kcpq-pink-slime-is-not-just-at-mcdonalds-20120201,0,7347011.story>

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

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[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** [Masood, Khalid - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#); (b) (6) - [FSIS](#); (b) (6) - [FSIS](#); [Masood, Khalid - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** LM questions for April 10- Des Moines District  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:18:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [LM Questions for 04102012.docx](#)

---

Hi (b) (6)

I am attaching the list of questions from everyone (b) (6).

Thank you for your help.  
Enjoy your weekend!

K. Masood DVM  
DDM, Des Moines, IA  
515-727-8960 (Office)  
515-727-8991 (Fax)

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:39:42 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

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**OPTION 3:** Publicly reaffirm USDA has no reason to question the safety of LFTB with regard to purchases that USDA has made or is making this school year, but only permit its use in certain ground beef specifications for USDA purchases for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year. These certain ground beef specifications would likely be limited to either products that are delivered directly to the States in such quantity that it would be administratively feasible to offer “with” and “without” LFTB specifications such as boxed fine ground beef as well as with products that are typically commercially produced with LFTB such as 95 percent lean ground beef patties. In both cases the ordering agencies would be clearly informed of the possible inclusion of LFTB in the product.

**PROS:**

- Directly addresses constituent concerns about the use of LFTB in ground beef purchased by USDA for Federal food and nutrition assistance programs, including hundreds of contacts from school officials, parents, and State agencies.
- Provides recipient agencies with the option of procuring certain beef items at as low a cost as possible by making an informed decision to allow for the inclusion of LFTB. It is estimated that the inclusion of LFTB could decrease the delivered cost of fine ground beef by 1-3 percent.
- Allows USDA to directly determine if recipients are still willing to order products containing LFTB for determining future actions by allowing for a “with” and “without” LFTB fine ground beef product option.
- Addresses online petitions to the Secretary to ban the use of “pink slime” in school food, one of which has garnered over 180,000 signatures as of March 12, 2012.
- Provides a mechanism to provide more information and a choice to States and school systems in terms of products that do not allow LFTB and those which may contain LFTB.
- Similar to process already in place for irradiated beef products, which provides States and school districts to order irradiated products if they so choose.
- By eliminating the inclusion of LFTB in USDA-purchased ground beef, it could encourage recipients to consider ground beef items formulated with other inexpensive and healthy lean beef alternatives such as ground beef items made with added prune puree.

**CONS:**

- May adversely impact commercial use of LFTB since USDA procurement policies are closely followed by a host of interested parties, and may create the appearance of an inconsistent USDA approach regarding LFTB usage, as FSIS permits the raw material in commercial products.



- Would restrict the inclusion of LFTB to products that account for less than a quarter of the USDA frozen beef purchase program.
- Could negate the price advantage of LFTB if limited demand and small orders lead to higher costs and bid prices.
- May continue to cast public doubt about the safety and acceptability of LFTB.

**Aaron Lavallee**

Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office Direct: 202.720.6959

Cell: (b) (6)

[aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov)

<http://www.usda.gov>

*Stay Connected with USDA:*



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:23:31 AM

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Oh, btw—did u see where USDA caved in yesterday and has taken ‘pink slime’ out of the school lunch program hamburger? Well at least they are giving the schools the option to choose whether they want hamburger with/without pink slime. ABC has done a real campaign on this—National news every night for over a week.

(b) (6) says that what I was talking about with tenderized beef earlier this week—is that there is some kind of solution that plants inject into ‘enhanced beef’.

Does that sound familiar?

(b) (6) Ph.D.  
Senior Economist  
Food Safety & Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 720-0582  
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From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Date: Monday, March 12, 2012 12:19:54 PM

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FYI – have you had your pink slime today? Saw this over the weekend now it's making print

## **USDA Whistleblower Gerald Zirnstein: 70% of US Supermarket Ground Beef Contains Ammonia-Treated 'Pink Slime'**

<http://morallowground.com/2012/03/08/usda-whistleblower-gerald-zirnstein-70-of-us-supermarket-ground-beef-contains-ammonia-treated-pink-slime/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [FSIS - OPPD/LPDD](#)  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:14:42 AM  
**Attachments:** [Scientist who coined "Pink Slime" reluctant whistleblower.pdf](#)

---

Beware of what you say in an email . . . .

Sincerely,

(b) (6) Food Technologist  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS  
Telephone: (b) (6)  
Submit your questions to...  
<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>  
[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSYS/Labeling\\_&\\_Consumer\\_Protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSYS/Labeling_&_Consumer_Protection/index.asp)

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Date: Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:46:53 AM

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Are you ready for the additional “pink slime” e-mails?

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
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USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
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(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:27:57 PM

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I think we (USDA) need to be ready for what's in nuggets and hot dogs. Those kinds of questions are going to come. One of the tweets at #pinkslime said "I wonder how many people complaining about pink slime will feed their kids hot dogs tonight."

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
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Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Date: Friday, February 03, 2012 12:36:31 PM

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***WHATS UP WITH ALL THIS "PINK SLIME TALK IN MEAT" ?***

***ITHE ONLY PINK SLIME I'VE HAD WAS VAGINAL DISCHARGE !!***

***I NEED MY SKIN !!***

***(b) (6) CSI***

From: (b) (6)  
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) - FSIS  
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:04:31 PM

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<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/health/2012/02/01/mcdonalds-announces-end-to-pink-slime-in-burgers/>

Interesting. The primary supplier of this "type" of product is a BPI establishment in Sioux City, NE. Also a supplier of NSLP program food.

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From: (b) (6).  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Date: Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:14:20 PM

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The always attention-grabbing “your kids are in danger” cry has thrust back into the national conversation about the use of lean, finely textured beef (LFTB) – colloquially known as “pink slime.”

McDonald’s and Burger King have stopped buying from Dakota Dunes, S.D.-based Beef Products Inc. (BPI) over relentless pressure by the public and the media to not use one of its products that is added to ground beef. Now the USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is the latest target of [bloggers](#) and activists, one of whom has created [an online petition](#) at for-profit website change.org.

Even [ABC](#) aired a report Wednesday, linking former Undersecretary of Agriculture JoAnn Smith to BPI’s board of directors.

The latest dust-up began Monday, when the online journal *The Daily* reported that the Agricultural Marketing Service plans to purchase 7 million pounds of product from BPI “in the coming months.”

Carl Custer, one of the two former USDA microbiologists quoted in [The Daily](#), alleged that the product isn’t muscle but rather connective tissue. But connective tissue isn’t red. Any redness (or pink, in this case) is associated with myoglobin — meaning it’s of muscle origin.

“We actually have equipment in place specifically designed to remove any sinew, cartilage, or connective tissue that may come in with raw materials, just like the companies that take trim and produce ground beef,” Rich Jochum, BPI’s corporate administrator told **Meatingplace**. “Our finished product is typically 94 percent lean.”

The latest criticism comes as new USDA standards have quadrupled the amount of testing required for both boneless beef and finished product. New rules for supplying commodity ground beef to federal nutrition programs – 78 percent of which goes to the National School Lunch Program – through the USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service went into effect July 2010.

LFTB is permissible in the school lunch program, although the product must have at least one scientifically validated intervention that proves a 3-log pathogen reduction, as LFTB could come from external carcass trim and sometimes has a higher microbial load potential.

But for all the yuck factor, the industry is concerned that the public pressure may eliminate a cost-effective, safe protein source that makes use of trim that is otherwise lost are warranted.

“We use ammonium hydroxide, which we believe is the most effective food

safety intervention available based upon our research,” Jochum said.

The choke-hold [could cripple](#) Beef Products Inc., which uses a proprietary process that relies on ammonium hydroxide gas to raise the naturally occurring levels of ammonium hydroxide in the beef. That in turn increases the meat’s pH to eliminate pathogens. The company has already had to reduce its hours of operation.

Ammonium hydroxide isn’t the only intervention used in producing LFTB. Cargill uses citric acid, just one of several alternatives to treat what it calls finely textured beef (FTB) to reduce the pathogen load.

These lean products are included in approximately 70 percent of all ground beef products.

"Given the increasing demand for animal protein products by people around the world hungry for them, together with a decreasing global supply, not using this lean beef for human consumption would be wrong for a variety of reasons," Cargill spokesman Mike Martin told **Meatingplace**.

“If FTB were not used in ground beef, more muscle meat would be used, further straining an already limited supply,” Martin said, estimating that 1.5 million more head of cattle would need to be harvested annually to provide enough beef to equate to the volume of FTB produced in the U.S.

To make the product, meat companies use USDA-inspected beef trimmings that contain both fat and lean and are nearly impossible to separate using a knife. The trimmings are then simmered at low heat to separate the fat from the muscle. Food-grade ammonium hydroxide – also commonly used as a direct food additive in baked goods, cheeses and chocolates – is just one process.

The product is later blended into foods like ground beef. “Producing LFTB ensures that lean, nutritious, safe beef is not wasted in a world where red meat protein supplies are decreasing while global demand is increasing as population and income increases,” said American Meat Institute President J. Patrick Boyle.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:13:12 AM

---

Good Morning,

(b) (6). I don't check bb very well  
(b) (6) but will have ringer on. Check out ABC news for the story on pink slime in  
ground beef.

Have a quiet day.

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) FSIS  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:45:33 PM

---

(b) (6) if they think that the Pink Slime is bad or nasty wait till the media gets a hold of MST or MSC this stuff is the original Pink Slime.

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Date: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:15:09 AM

---

**Meetingplace: Do you expect any regulatory ramifications stemming from this 'pink slime' hysteria? Anything that would change how FSIS classifies it in processing?**

ENGELJOHN: I'm not authorized to answer that question. In terms of defining the product and whether it's safe, we have assessed that and that's where we stand on that issue.

(b) (6), *Investigator*  
*USDA/FSIS/OPFER/CID*  
*411 Waverly Oaks Rd, Suite 332*  
*Waltham, MA 02452*

*Cell - (b) (6)*  
*Office - 781-398-2290 x (b) (6)*  
*Fax - 781-398-2291*  
*e-mail - (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:08:42 AM  
**Attachments:** [Ronk - Ammoniated beef\[1\]\[1\].doc](#)

---

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

**From:** [Footprints Footprints](#)  
**To:** [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Make a Selection ISSUE=1637 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:41:43 PM

---

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Media Staff](#).

**Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1637](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Make a Selection](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** [03/21/2012 4:40 PM](#)  
**Contact Name:** (b) (6)  
**Caller Type:** [Media](#)  
**Contact Phone Number:** (b) (6)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:**  
**Employer/Organization:**  
**Call Info:** [Entered on 2012-03-21 at 16:40:45 by Atiya Khan :](#)

[Would like to request documents on pink  
slime.](#)

**Notes:** [Entered on 03/21/2012 at 16:40:42 EDT \(GMT-0400\) by Atiya Khan:](#)  
[\[ no Notes entered \]](#)

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. Update ticket [1637](#) with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [Rick Popp](#)  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** March 22, 2012 Imported Beef News Letter Attached  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 5:22:08 AM

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March 22, 2012 Imported Beef News Letter Attached

Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution: Pink Slime - 70% of America's Beef is Treated with Ammonia  
Pink Slime Video- This is the guy that started it all.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wshlnRWnf30>

He is not a friend of BPI or the meat industry.

Thank You,  
Rick Popp  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6) [@hotmail.com](#)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** March still here  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 12:41:21 PM

---

(b) (6) IT'S FRIDAY!

Have you done any relief yet? Hope that you are happier . I think that this is your 3<sup>rd</sup> week in Iowa. Our relief has a desk here at Cargill, his home plant, but of course, he is not here much.

Cargill is now working just 5 – 8 hour days no cows no money. Cargill is sure upset about Finely Texture Meat , pink slime. Do you have any BPI plants in your circuit. I think it will be a big problem for these plants.

Rain and nasty here this morning but Sunday over 70, crazy weather.

Have a great weekend!

(b) (6)

**From:** [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Mary Katherine's drafts  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:18:37 AM  
**Attachments:** [alc902f11f11.docx](#)

---

Hi (b) (6)

In reviewing several of M.K.'s drafts, I see you are making the same edits (see attached). Can you bring to her attention the need to determine whether correspondence is being received via Hotline vs USDA, etc. Also, I've noticed she is using what she believes is the incoming date, but really, it's the date the Meat and Poultry hotline forwarded the original email, for example.

Thanks (b) (6)

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

From: [Robert Hess](#)  
To: [Robert Hess](#)  
Bcc: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: McDonald's confirms that it's no longer using 'pink slime' chemical in hamburgers | The Sideshow - Yahoo! News  
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:28:23 PM

---

Jamie has put this issue into its simplest form. Although the process by BPI in Liberal, KS who makes the biggest share of this product, is much more technical and done on a very large scale...Millions of pounds per year. And, that is what we in USDA call it..."Pink Slime"

I applaud McDonald's for refusing to use it any more. The General population needs to know about this but the only way they are ever going to find out is through the passing around of videos such as this.

By the way, BPI in Liberal has had many problems with this product testing positive for pathogenic bacteria over the last few years.

ps: **Bare with it till you get through the commercials at the beginning. It is well worth taking the time to watch**



Your friend [scubliani@gmail.com](mailto:scubliani@gmail.com) has shared a link with you.

Personal message:

Watch the video at the bottom (Jaime Oliver's food revolution)...Is any of this true pops??  
Very wrong if it is...

## McDonald's confirms that it's no longer using 'pink slime' chemical in hamburgers | The Sideshow - Yahoo! News



<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/sideshow/mcdonald-confirms-no-longer-using-pink-slime-chemicals-171209662.html>

McDonald's announced last week that, as of last August, is has stopped using ammonium hydroxide in the production of its hamburgers. MSNBC reports that the chemical, used in fertilizers, household cleaners and even homemade explosives, was also used to prepare McDonalds' hamburger meat. And while the announcement is making headlines, you may (or may not) [...]

**[Read the full story](#)**

--

Robert L. Hess

(b) (6) @gmail.com

<http://www.myheritage.com/site-54592121/hess-family>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Meat  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 02, 2011 7:52:06 AM

---

I got a stupid email forward about Beef Products, Inc and their Pink Slime. I have been looking in the CFR and am pretty sure I can dispute the claim that it is made from “floor sweepings” based on the “sanitary requirements”, but some of the other stuff I’m not sure about. The Beef Products Inc website admit to adding ammonia (claiming it is a naturally occurring product in meat). If you have nothing better to do and want to talk about this, that would be great. I’d love to respond to clear up some of the misinformation in this article and the one from the NY Times. (Specifically, where they say McDonald’s uses the pink slime in burgers – I believe this is untrue because their product is labeled as 100% USDA inspected beef).

Here are a couple links:

[http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19947.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19947.cfm)

[http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19947.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19947.cfm)

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Meatingplace exclusive interview: FSIS's Dan Engeljohn  
Date: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:41:22 PM

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Did you see the comment about the pink slime?

## Meatingplace exclusive interview: FSIS's Dan Engeljohn

By [Tom Johnston](#) on 3/19/2012

CHICAGO — USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service has a lot on its mind.

One thing at the top of it is reducing Salmonella contamination in the products it regulates. And while the agency is paying particular attention to poultry, its leaders are keeping an eye on beef, too.

On the sidelines of the North American Meat Processors Association's Meat Industry Management Conference here, Dan Engeljohn, assistant administrator of FSIS's Office of Policy & Program Development, tells **Meatingplace** what the agency is thinking.

**Meatingplace: USDA and other federal agencies are working to improve their ability to link a foodborne illness to a particular food. With regard to Salmonella, do you expect attribution to show animal proteins in particular as a major source relative to other foods?**

ENGELJOHN: The attribution efforts are really important in helping us to know where to target our resources. Prevention of contamination and protecting consumers is our No. 1 priority. By focusing on contamination in particular for poultry we think it will cause industry to take steps to improve their ability to prevent contamination and thereby prevent consumers from ultimately getting sick. It's difficult to relate directly mitigations we take and outcomes because so many factors contribute to why a person gets sick, but through our attribution efforts we do know that oftentimes when epidemiological investigations are done, of the foods we regulate poultry is more often identified as the source of potential contamination in the recent consumption history of that person.

**Meatingplace: [Undersecretary for Food Safety Elisabeth] Hagen has said the poultry industry can expect even tighter regulations related to salmonella and campylobacter contamination. Is the agency moving toward a zero-tolerance standard for those pathogens?**

ENGELJOHN: We're about preventing foodborne illness and putting in place mitigations that are practical. So for raw products, where we know it's not feasible to eliminate pathogens, our goal is to prevent contamination, put in place standards to track whether or not there's progress toward reducing contamination and then adjusting them if we can continue to drive down contamination. Our focus for our raw product is to ensure we're preventing, to the maximum extent practical, contamination. We also couple that with a number of efforts related to ensuring consumers are aware of and are exercising best practices for food safety practices.

**Meatingplace: FSIS expects plants to account for seasonal changes in microbial profiles in their hazard analysis. Why, then, will the agency's baseline study on salmonella in chicken parts span only six months?**

ENGELJOHN: We are doing it in what we consider the warmest temperatures, which have been a time when Salmonella is typically high for the carcass study and ground poultry study we have. We're looking at a time when performance is probably at its worst. Also it's consistent with how we originally set ground product standards with the original HACCP rule in 1996. We used, in some cases, six months or less for the baseline studies that we completed at that time. We think it's sufficient to be able to set a standard.

**Meatingplace: The chicken parts study reflects the agency's additional concerns about salmonella in poultry. Are you seeing trends in beef in terms of salmonella contamination that concern you, and what is the agency doing to address that concern?**

ENGELJOHN: For beef, we always have concerns ... because these are raw products. It isn't feasible to prepare these products processed from live animals without some contamination. Our policies have been to minimize that contamination to the maximum extent that is practical. We constantly look for adverse trends, and if there are we take steps to reset those standards. There is a need to focus on prevention; there are steps that can be taken during slaughter where establishments can do more to prevent contamination rather than decontaminate the carcasses that are contaminated. We issued a directive in November ... [with] a direct focus on non-sanitary dressing of beef carcasses with a particular focus on documenting control procedures and action limits for prevention during slaughter.

**Meatingplace: Do you expect any regulatory ramifications stemming from this 'pink slime' hysteria? Anything that would change how FSIS classifies it in processing?**

ENGELJOHN: I'm not authorized to answer that question. In terms of defining the product and whether it's safe, we have assessed that and that's where we stand on that issue.

(b) (6) MS, VMD

PHV Staff Officer

USDA, FSIS, OPPD Policy Development Division

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1616 Capitol Avenue Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5908

Phone (b) (6) Fax (402) 344-5007

*Policy is my passion.*

*Have you searched [askFSIS?](#)*

**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Lavalley, Aaron - OC](#); [Chan, Stephanie - OC](#); [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**Cc:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Meatingplace Inquiry on Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:14:06 AM

---

Lisa Keefe of Meatingplace asked for more information.

Mike -- I told her to contact OC, but she may try to reach you as well.

Here's her contact info.:

Lisa M. Keefe

Editor, Meatingplace in Print

Chicago

312-274-2212

[lkeefe@meatingplace.com](mailto:lkeefe@meatingplace.com)

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

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[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** FSIS - OPHS/HHSD  
**Subject:** MeatPoultry press release on LFTB  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 12:54:43 PM

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Hi everyone,

Thought you might be interested in the article below—additional retail markets dropping LFTB ground beef due to loss of consumer confidence in the product.

I highlighted a statement of interest from James Marsden. Might be said that the product has never been implicated specifically because we don't determine what component of the ground beef product is the source of the O157 contamination resulting in outbreaks; only that a particular lot of ground beef is suspect. I also know that there when we have looked back at source suppliers during outbreaks LFTB has been a component used by those establishments. Since I've heard 'most' ground beef currently has LFTB as a component, can we be certain that the contamination did not come from LFTB product versus boneless beef trim/trimmings? His statement might be based upon the fact that BPI has adopted ammonium hydroxide (anhydrous gas) treatment of its LFTB products in order to kill *Salmonella* and O157 and has a test and hold policy for every lot of LFTB. But we know the potential limitations surrounding interventions to eliminate, and testing to detect pathogens in any product we regulate.

Any thoughts?

## **BI-LO/Winn-Dixie, Hy-Vee drop LFTB products**

**MeatPoultry.com, March 23, 2012**

**by Bryan Salvage**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – BI-LO/Winn-Dixie and Hy-Vee have become the latest US supermarket chains to announce they will no longer purchase fresh ground beef containing lean finely textured beef (LFTB).

LFTB meets federal food-safety standards and has been used in processing ground beef for years. But critics recently denounced the product as unsafe, referred to it as “pink slime” and charged it is an example of unsavory food manufacturing practices the food industry is trying to hide from consumers. Industry and scientific proponents of the process strongly deny these allegations and maintain this process has been scientifically proven safe years ago.

Both retailers issued press releases on their moves.

“BI-LO and Winn-Dixie are committed to offering quality foods and services at a great value,” one release stated. “Customer reaction in response to recent reports on LFTB have put into question the USDA-approved process. Today [March 23], BI-LO and Winn-Dixie announce we will no longer purchase fresh ground beef containing LFTB.”

Hy-Vee relayed it also decided to discontinue the purchase of ground beef products containing LFTP in response to customer concerns. “Although this ground beef meets all USDA standards for quality and safety, recent news stories have led to a loss of consumer confidence in the product,” Hy-Vee stated. “We have notified our suppliers of this decision and are working to switch our product lines as quickly as possible. We want to thank our customers for sharing their feedback on this issue and assure them Hy-Vee will continue to listen and respond to their concerns, just as our company has been doing for more than 80 years.”

“It's interesting that all of the focus is on the one component of ground beef that has never been implicated in a case or outbreak of foodborne disease or a single recall,” James Marsden, Ph.D., Regent’s Distinguished Professor of Food Safety and Security, Kansas State Univ., associate director of the Biosecurity Research Institute located at KSU and North American Meat Processors Association senior science advisor, told MEATPOULTRY.com in commenting on the LFTB controversy.

BI-LO Holding is the ninth-largest traditional supermarket chain in the US. The company employs 63,000 team members working for stores under the banner names of BI-LO and Winn-Dixie who serve customers in 688 grocery stores in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Hy-Vee Inc. is an employee-owned corporation operating 235 retail stores in eight Midwestern states. It ranks among the top 25 supermarket chains and the top 50 private companies in the US.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) DVM MPVM | Veterinary Epidemiologist

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**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**Cc:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** media inquiry on pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:20:32 AM

---

From CBS Radio. Contact info below

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [<mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:18 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1632 PROJ=63

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Media Staff](#).

### **Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1632](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** [03/15/2012 8:00 AM](#)  
**Contact Name:** [Jenny Glick](#)  
**Caller Type:** [Media](#)  
**Contact Phone Number:**  
**Cell Phone Number:** [\(b\) \(6\)](#)  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:**  
**Employer/Organization:** [CBS Radio](#)  
**Call Info:** [Entered on 2012-03-15 at 08:18:11 by Peggy Riek :](#)

[Reporter called for Carol or Bill Bagley. Re: announcement today about "pink slime."  
Questions: What is it? How do you know if your meat has "pink slime."](#)

She would like a call asap today on her cell phone.

**Notes:** *Entered on 03/15/2012 at 08:18:10 EDT (GMT-0400) by Peggy Riek:*  
[ no Notes entered ]

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. ♦ Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. ♦ Update ticket **1632** with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [Tomoko Horie](#)  
**To:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** media query  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:44:08 AM

---

Hi Mr. Gaffney,

I am a news producer for Japanese TV network, Nippon TV of Japan.  
I am looking for a statement issued by USDA last week on the purchase of Lean Beef Trimmings from BPI company.  
Could you kindly send me that statement?

Thank you very much.  
Tomoko

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Agriculture is defending the use of ammonium-treated beef, dubbed "pink slime" by detractors, in meals destined for U.S. schoolchildren as part of the national school lunch program.

The Internet news source The Daily reported this week that 7 million pounds (3.2 million kg) of the product — beef trimmings treated partly with ammonium hydroxide to fight contamination — would appear in school lunches this spring.

"All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety," the agency said in a statement.

"USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe."

--

\*\*\*\*\*

Tomoko Horie  
Nippon TV, Washington, D.C. Bureau  
[Email:horie@ntvic.com](mailto:Email:horie@ntvic.com)  
Tel: 202-210-8425

**From:** [Jutz, Jessica](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** MEHA Speaker Request  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:55:10 AM

---

Hi (b) (6)

My name is Jessica Jutz and I am a member of the Minnesota Environmental Health Association ([mehaonline.org](http://mehaonline.org)) conference planning committee. We are planning our spring conference which is May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at Rutteger's Bay Lake Lodge in Deerwood, MN. MEHA is an organization made up of registered sanitarians in Minnesota.

We would like someone from USDA to give a presentation about "pink slime" and/or other fillers in food. The sessions are 50 minutes long, including time for questions. The time slots we still have available are Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:35, 1:25, or 3:35. Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 12:10.

Please let me know if someone is available to speak. I know this topic will be of interest and extremely valuable to our members.

Thank you,

Jessica Jutz, REHS  
Environmental Health Specialist  
City of Bloomington  
952-563-4525

**From:** (b) (6) @gmail.com  
**To:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**Subject:** Message from Internet User - Beef additives  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:21:33 PM

---

Can you tell me when the USDA will reverse the designation on finely textured beef A K A "pink slime" and stop calling it "meat". Under secretary Joann Smith's self-serving determination that it was meat is an unfortunate blemish on USDA's otherwise excellent record. It would be a shame if the USDA did not address this egregious error which borders on criminal dereliction of duty just to avoid admitting there have been unethical, self-serving, and thoroughly disgusting people in your organization. Please stop school lunches from including this offal and awful filler in hamburger. Thank you.

David Wiseley P O Box 293 Waters, MI 49797

PH (b) (6)



**From:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**To:** [FSJS Webmaster](#)  
**Subject:** Message from Internet User - beefalo  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 6:15:50 PM

---

is beefalo allowed to have lean beef trimming (aka pink slime) added to it when it is ground up?

**From:** (b) (6) @ymail.com  
**To:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**Subject:** Message from Internet User - Ground Beef  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:16:06 PM

---

After watching ABC news last night and seeing the story about the "pink slime" I am absolutely appalled and disgusted that someone would make a decision like that on my behalf, to make the assumption that I would not care about ingesting that into my body, I as a human being have a right to know what I am buying, eating and drinking. And the person that made this decision had no right to do so. I am demanding that this stuff not be used.  
Julie Maples

**From:** [editor@foodpoisoningbulletin.com](mailto:editor@foodpoisoningbulletin.com)  
**To:** [FSIS FOIA](#)  
**Subject:** Message from Internet User - Nutrition label for "pink slime"  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:21:21 AM

---

Hello,

I would like to receive a nutrition label for the so-called "pink slime"; that mixture of beef trimmings and ammonia that is added to ground beef that is made by Beef Products Industries.

Thank you.

Linda Larsen  
Editor  
Food Poisoning Bulletin  
<http://foodpoisoningbulletin.com>

**From:** (b) (6)@bellsouth.net  
**To:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**Subject:** Message from Internet User - Pink Slime and More  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 12:04:27 PM

---

I saw your spokes person defending Pink Slim on the news recently saying it's just beef. My understanding is that it's treated with some kind of Ammonia. I also heard about Chicken being soaked in high concentrations of Chlorine and then masking it with saline injections. Now I wonder what other terrible things are in my food. Even if only trace amounts remain in my mind it becomes an ingredient and should be on the label so I can decide for myself if I want to consume poison or not. If it's in there for whatever reason it should be on the label. It's only right, Do the right thing please!

**From:** (b) (6)@earthlink.net  
**To:** [FSJS FOIA](#)  
**Subject:** Message from Internet User - pink slime in ground beef  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:51:13 PM

---

I have searched your website qithout finding any way to contact anyone about any subject. You seem to not wish to be contacted by the public at all, let alone the subject of "pink slime" in ground beef!

**From:** (b) (6)@aol.com  
**To:** [NACMPI](#)  
**Subject:** Message from Internet User - Pink Slime in Hamburger  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:45:54 PM

---

The USDA need to revisit this false labeling or at least require accurate labeling of all ground beef sold with this nasty stuff in it. To me it's incredible that they can put scrap meat and chemicals into hamburger and call it food fit for humans. And we've been eating this stuff for year now. Truly disgusting.

**From:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**To:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**Subject:** Message from Internet User - PINK SLIME!  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:11:07 PM

---

We are joining the overwhelming requests to have Pink Slime noted on our hamburger packages at the super market. This is a disgrace and outrage! The USDA should be ashamed. Please respond with your reasoning on this matter. Thank you.

**From:** (b) (6) [@rawdonmyers.com](mailto:@rawdonmyers.com)  
**To:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**Subject:** Message from Internet User - Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:56:06 PM

---

I have seen your position on this subject, that no extra labelling is required because the so-called Pink Slime is beef and not an additive to the beef.

However, Pink Slime is partially cooked (simmered) and then frozen. I firmly believe I have the right to know when I am buying previously frozen vs. fresh, and cooked vs. uncooked. If the store represents it's ground beef to be fresh (unfrozen) and completely uncooked, then I should be able to safely assume there is no Pink Slime in it. Otherwise it should be labelled PARTIALLY COOKED AND PREVIOUSLY FROZEN. Then I will know the truth as it should be.

Those have always been the rules. Fresh means never frozen, and uncooked means completely uncooked. The USDA should not allow the rules to be broken, otherwise why have them, and why have a USDA.

Thank you,  
Al Sheldon  
Loveland, OH.



**From:** (b) (6) @gmail.com  
**To:** [NACMPI](#)  
**Subject:** Message from Internet User - pink slime  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 9:35:22 AM

---

The USDA approval of "pink slime" ground beef for use in our school children lunches is totally unacceptable. These beef scraps, treated with an unknown amount of ammonia, and which otherwise would be used for dog food, should in no way be approved for human consumption. What is your reasoning behind such a preposterous decision?

**From:** (b) (6) @msn.com  
**To:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**Subject:** Message from Internet User - Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:34:14 PM

---

I need your help to protect our children!

Pink Slime is an inedible byproduct of the beef industry once used in pet food. Now the federal government has approved Pink Slime to be in school lunches!

The person who approved the Pink Slime mix was former Undersecretary of Agriculture Joann Smith. After stepping down from the USDA, she was appointed to the board of directors of Beef Products, Inc. who make Pink Slimes.

Please get it out of the schools!

Thanks,  
Richard Rowell

**From:** (b) (6) @verizon.net  
**To:** [FSJS Webmaster](#)  
**Subject:** Message from Internet User - PINK SLIME  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:45:30 PM

---

You the USDA, has to do something about the Pink Slime issue. It shouldn't be allowed in any meat product! I highly doubt you are going to eat anything if you know it has pink slime in it or feed it to your children.

**From:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**To:** NACMPI  
**Subject:** Message from Internet User - School Lunches and "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:13:47 PM

---

<http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-slime-8221-beef-180500764.html>

This email is in reference to the above linked article which speaks of the substance "pink slime" being used as an additive to beef products nationwide.

I would like to personally say that I think that the thought of this is not only disturbing and disgusting, but also absolutely unthinkable. The health and well-being of my child should come before saving a few cents here and there. Is it not too much to ask that quality not be sacrificed for quantity any more in this country? The USDA should be ashamed of themselves if what I read in this article was true. It's sad when a disgusting fast food restaurant who cares nothing more than making money has banned it from their customers and the USDA is happy to slap it on a plate for our nation's children? Wake up! Stop compromising our children's health for money!!!

**From:** [Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Message: Heads up  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 2:09:59 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

Brian/Dirk –A call was transferred from Dr. Hagen’s office concerning pink slime added in US beef. Kenneth Harrison (consumer) called concerning a news clip he seen from ABC News on “pink slime” which is added to US beef. He did not leave much detail but would like a call back as soon as possible. Mr. Harrison can be reached at (b) (6).

Thanks.

Nichele Derrickson,  
*Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175 - South Building

Phone: (202) 720-9113  
Fax: (202) 720-5704

[nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSJS  
**To:** [FSJS - OPPD/PDD](#)  
**Subject:** Minutes - Mar 22, 2012  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 8:27:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [PDD Stf Mtg 03-22-12.doc](#)

---

**From:** [Footprints Footprints](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1614 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:05:15 PM

---

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

**Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1614](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** [01/31/2012 4:45 PM](#)  
**Contact Name:** [Ray Sanderson](#)  
**Caller Type:** [Primary Constituent](#)  
**Contact Phone Number:** [205-290-0717](#)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:** (b) (6) @gmail.com  
**Employer/Organization:** [Private Citizen](#)  
**Call Info:** [Entered on 2012-01-31 at 17:00:05 by \(b\) \(6\) :](#)

[RE: Pink Slime \(ground beef by product\)](#)  
[Why does USDA allow this substance in the food chain?](#)

[Please call tomorrow a.m.](#)

**Notes:** [Entered on 01/31/2012 at 17:00:04 EST \(GMT-0500\) by \(b\) \(6\) :](#)  
[\[ no Notes entered \]](#)

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. Update ticket [1614](#) with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [Footprints Footprints](#)  
**To:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1627 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:58:18 PM

---

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

**Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1627](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** [03/08/2012 12:45 PM](#)  
**Contact Name:** [Sam Young](#)  
**Caller Type:** [Primary Constituent](#)  
**Contact Phone Number:** [5\(b\) \(6\)](#)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:**  
**Employer/Organization:** [Private Citizen](#)  
**Call Info:** [Entered on 2012-03-08 at 13:06:53 by \(b\) \(6\)](#) :

[RE: Broadcast on Pink Slime added to meat.](#)  
[What stores are adding the slime? Please call by](#)  
[tomorrow \(3/9/12\).](#)

**Notes:** [Entered on 03/08/2012 at 13:06:52 EST \(GMT-0500\) by \(b\) \(6\)](#)  
[\[ no Notes entered \]](#)

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. Update ticket [1627](#) with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)



**From:** [Footprints Footprints](#)  
**To:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:06:58 AM

---

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

**Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** 1628  
**Subject of Call:** Miscellaneous  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** 03/08/2012 7:00 PM  
**Contact Name:** Glenn Sukys  
**Caller Type:** Primary Constituent  
**Contact Phone Number:** (b) (6)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:** (b) (6)@q.com  
**Employer/Organization:** consumer  
**Call Info:** Entered on 2012-03-09 at 09:06:26 by Nichele Derrickson :

Message was retrieved from voicemail.

Constituent is very concerned about the "pink slime" issues that was reported by ABC news on Wednesday and Thursday this week. He would like USDA to reverse any permission to use "pink slime" in any product. Glenn mentioned he is currently reaching out to Senator Kristen Gillibrand as well.

**Notes:** *Entered on 03/09/2012 at 09:06:25 EST (GMT-0500) by Nichele Derrickson:*  
[ no Notes entered ]

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. Update ticket **1628** with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [Footprints Footprints](#)  
**To:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1629 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:32:16 PM

---

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

**Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1629](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** [03/09/2012 12:00 PM](#)  
**Contact Name:** [David Fikes](#)  
**Caller Type:** [Primary Constituent](#)  
**Contact Phone Number:** (b) (6)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:** (b) (6) [@fmi.org](#)  
**Employer/Organization:** [Food Marketing Institute](#)  
**Call Info:** [Entered on 2012-03-09 at 12:31:29 by \(b\) \(6\)](#) :

[David Fikes the Director or Consumer Affairs would like a call today with regards to the Pink Slime issue.](#)

**Notes:** [Entered on 03/09/2012 at 12:31:29 EST \(GMT-0500\) by \(b\) \(6\)](#) :  
[ no Notes entered ]

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. Update ticket [1629](#) with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [Footprints Footprints](#)  
**To:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1630 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:59:34 AM

---

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

**Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** 1630  
**Subject of Call:** Miscellaneous  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** 03/12/2012 10:55 AM  
**Contact Name:** Peter Candland  
**Caller Type:** Primary Constituent  
**Contact Phone Number:** (b) (6)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:** (b) (6) @pwcs.edu  
**Employer/Organization:** Prince William County Public Schools  
**Call Info:** Entered on 2012-03-12 at 10:58:38 by Nichele Derrickson :

RE: Requesting a statement from USDA  
concerning the "pink slime" in school lunches.

Many constituents are calling and they would  
like to have a statement to provided these  
callers.

Email address: (b) (6) @pwcs.edu

**Notes:** *Entered on 03/12/2012 at 10:58:37 EDT (GMT-0400) by Nichele Derrickson:*  
[ no Notes entered ]

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. Update ticket **1630** with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [Footprints Footprints](#)  
**To:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1631 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:28:36 AM

---

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

**Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** 1631  
**Subject of Call:** Miscellaneous  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** 03/14/2012 10:20 AM  
**Contact Name:** Charles Cadwell  
**Caller Type:** Primary Constituent  
**Contact Phone Number:** (b) (6)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:** n/a  
**Employer/Organization:** consumer  
**Call Info:** Entered on 2012-03-14 at 10:23:40 by Nichele Derrickson :

Re: How did "pink slime" get approved by  
USDA?

**Notes:** *Entered on 03/14/2012 at 10:23:39 EDT (GMT-0400) by Nichele Derrickson:*  
[ no Notes entered ]

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. Update ticket **1631** with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [Footprints Footprints](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1632 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:18:39 AM

---

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Media Staff](#).

**Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1632](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** [03/15/2012 8:00 AM](#)  
**Contact Name:** [Jenny Glick](#)  
**Caller Type:** [Media](#)  
**Contact Phone Number:**  
**Cell Phone Number:** (b) (6)  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:**  
**Employer/Organization:** [CBS Radio](#)  
**Call Info:** [Entered on 2012-03-15 at 08:18:11 by \(b\) \(6\) :](#)

[Reporter called for Carol or Bill Bagley. Re: announcement today about "pink slime." Questions: What is it? How do you know if your meat has "pink slime."](#)

[She would like a call asap today on her cell phone.](#)

**Notes:** [Entered on 03/15/2012 at 08:18:10 EDT \(GMT-0400\) by \(b\) \(6\) :](#)  
[\[ no Notes entered \]](#)

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. Update ticket [1632](#) with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** more pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 10:00:36 PM

---

(b) (6) and (b) (6)

Here's the information about the pink slime/gloop said to be in McDonalds hamburgers...I guess they no longer use this stuff. Let me know if you were able to open the link.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/health/2012/02/01/mcdonalds-announces-end-to-pink-slime-in-burgers/#.TzSGj8uEXJw.email>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** More.....pink slime.  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:18:29 PM

---

(b) (6)

We have a bundle of new similar pink slime e-mails. I'm thinking we could again package these in a single folder and have the CCOs assist with a mail merge, rather than creating multiple folders for multiple responses. All would be FI30s.

Let me know your thoughts – thanks,

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**To:** [FSIS - OPPD/RIMD](#)

**Subject:** Morning everyone - did you see the ABC News story on "pink slime" with the 2 USDA scientists interviewed last night?

**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 6:06:54 AM

---



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** MTO5  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 11:03:38 AM

---

What are you doing taking a sample three blocks from my apartment (Holly Hill Farms in Reynoldsburg)?!?!? LOL

Nice people, I will probably buy my meat from them from now on - since there's no PINK SLIME!!!

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Device.....

(b) (6), Investigator  
U.S. Dept of Agriculture - FSIS  
Office of Program Evaluation,  
Enforcement and Review  
Compliance & Investigations Division  
155 E. Columbus Street  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
(b) (6) Office  
(b) (6) Blackberry  
614-833-9901 Fax  
email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** NACMCF Talking Points 3-28-2012  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 4:02:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [NACMCF Talking Points 3-28-2012 \(3\).docx](#)

---

All:

(b) (6) (LSP Chief of Staff) provided some edits and through Gerri, FSIS Public Affairs, suggested that we nip the LFTB (aka pink slime) issue in the bud by stating that the meeting is *not* a discussion about LFTB. I included a statement at the end of the LFTB section. Please review to make sure it is appropriate.

(b) (6)

(b) (6), Ph.D.

Livestock and Meat Marketing Specialist  
USDA / AMS / LS / Standardization Division  
1400 Independence Ave., SW, Rm 2607-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Direct line: (b) (6)  
Main line: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 720-1112  
E-mail: (b) (6) [@ams.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@ams.usda.gov)

[www.greening.usda.gov](http://www.greening.usda.gov)

 Do you really need to print this e-mail?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Nat'l School Lunch Program  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 3:47:17 PM

---

Hi (b) (6) With all the talk about pink slime lately, questions about Nat'l School Lunch Programs have come up. Does Est. 8999 produce raw beef for the Nat'l School Lunch Program? Or is the answer the same as it was back in 2007?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 05, 2007 10:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: FY06 AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program - Estimate of Inspector Hours

This took awhile since I've been having computers problems. The product is bulk ground beef in chubs.  
(b) (4)  
. The USDA approval for the label is: 2466973 and the CN approval# is 064740 (8/24/05).

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 31, 2007 3:31 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: FY06 AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program - Estimate of Inspector Hours

Hi (b) (6) I need some more specific information on this:

What is the product that they produce that are considered CN labeled?

What is the volume of these products (rough estimate)?

How often do they produce these (rough estimate—hours per day, days per week, weeks per month or something like that)?

Thanks much!

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 15, 2007 9:25 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: FY06 AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program - Estimate of Inspector Hours

8999 does one product with CNS labeling, which I cover. They don't do anything specifically for the National School lunch program, so they don't have a Grader here.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 14, 2007 2:37 PM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: FY06 AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program - Estimate of Inspector Hours

Hi (b) (6) Here's an old issue that came up again. Is 8999's involvement with Child Nutrition labeling, or National School Lunch Program, or both? In either case, how is it covered by inspection? Do you cover it or is there someone else like a USDA grader that comes in when they produce this?

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 12, 2005 11:11 AM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: FY06 AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program - Estimate of Inspector Hours

It just was re-added to the TQC after a long absence. I'm going to GUESS 2 hrs / month.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Thursday, October 06, 2005 4:35 PM

**To:** (b) (6)

r@fsis.usda.gov);

(b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: FY06 AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program - Estimate of Inspector Hours

**Importance:** High

Hello all IICs. Please see the

following e-mail and reply to me telling me whether you have a plant(s) involved in School Lunch or Child Nutrition Program and if so, an estimate of the number of hours designated as service to this program. If you have no school lunch or Child nutrition program, please reply to me saying such.

If you'd like more information on what I'm talking about you can look at FSIS Directives 7222.1 dated 9-9-98 and 7010.1 dated 6-12-89.

Thanks.

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** White, Craig

**Sent:** Thursday, October 06, 2005  
4:08 PM

**To:** FO/DO20/Front Line  
Supervisors

**Subject:** FW: FY06 AMS School  
Lunch and Child Nutrition Program  
- Estimate of Inspector Hours

**Importance:** High

Hello All;

Here's a new one. Please provide some puppy on sand paper sounding estimates per below. Please return the Base and overtime estimates to me, I will compile and forward.

Thanks.

*Craig White*

*DDM Minneapolis*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Thursday, October 06, 2005  
2:42 PM

**To:** (b) (6);

(b) (6)

**Subject:** FY06 AMS School Lunch  
and Child Nutrition Program -  
Estimate of Inspector Hours  
**Importance:** High

Everyone,

If you have inspectors in your district who will be working on the AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program during FY06 under the Reimbursable Agreement that we have, I need you to provide an estimate of hours that will be worked by those inspectors while working on this program. I need you to provide an estimate of hours for Base Time **and** Overtime/Holidays. I need this information as soon as possible. Negative replies are required. If you have any questions, please call or email me.

Thanks,

(b) (6), *Senior Budget Analyst*

*Office of Field Operations*

*Resource Management & Planning Staff*

*Financial Management Unit*

(b) (6) (Office)

(202) 418-8938 (Fax)

(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#); [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#); [McIntire, Richard - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** New report for major issues coverage in media  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:04:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [032712 LFBT Media Report.doc](#)

---

When we have a major media issue in the future, Carol would like us to compile a report similar to the one attached. Please file the attached document to use as a guide for when you manage a major issue in the future. Thanks!

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:48 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: LFTB letter

The attached report has a TON of information in it. I thought you'd like to see it. I'd like to see us be able to do some of these for our big issues.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)



Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** [\(b\) \(6\) - OSEC](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:37 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Lavalley, Aaron - OC; O'Connor, Tim - FNS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** LFTB letter

We understand this letter is coming our way from the Hill and I would like to get a jump on talking points that can respond to some of the allegations I have highlighted below.

Generally I think the fact sheet OC has prepared this morning (attached) can cover most of the concerns, especially those regarding "educating" the public. However, how best do we respond to the issue of "promoting" a particular product? I would assume there are some statutory, legal and or regulatory concerns there? What about "encouraging" schools to make choices on food safety/nutrition? Can we refer to our upcoming guidance there? Our press release announcing the change also should provide enough tps.

Craig—can your shop take the lead here and work with FNS? I would just like 3-4 talking points, NOT a full letter response.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

As you know, a concerted effort is underway to undermine the public's confidence in the high quality lean textured beef that's produced by companies like Beef Products Incorporated (BPI). Given the tremendous amount of misinformation that was released to the public about lean finely textured beef, it is no surprise that many consumers have begun to question the quality of this product.

In an effort to address some of the concerns that had been raised with the use of lean finely textured beef in the National School Lunch Program, the USDA announced on March 15, 2012, that schools would have the option to remove the meat product from their school lunches. While we believe it is always appropriate for the USDA to give schools choices in how they meet the requirements of the National School Lunch program, we are concerned that the USDA's handling of this situation has left schools, retailers and consumers with the impression that lean finely textured beef is something other than a safe and healthy source of protein, which greatly concerns us.

The USDA plays a unique role in ensuring the safety of our nation's food supply. As such, it must be the arbiter for facts and science in cases such as this. However, we are concerned that the USDA has not done enough to educate the public about lean finely textured beef and promote its use as a safe and healthy food choice.

As you know, lean finely textured beef has been added to ground beef for many years to make the product more lean. Before the LFTB is added to ground beef, it is treated with ammonium hydroxide to kill bacteria, especially E-Coli. In a 2008 Washington Post article, Engineering a Safer Burger, the paper called Beef Products Incorporated (BPI), the nation's largest supplier of LFTB, "a fortress against potentially lethal bacteria." BPI makes lean, high quality 100% beef that meets that highest levels of safety. It is for this very reason that the USDA has included lean finely textured beef in the National School Lunch Program.

We are writing you today to ask that the USDA take steps to educate the public about the benefits of lean finely textured beef and to encourage schools to make their food choices based on nutrition and



food safety, not public perception. BPI has been the target of a malicious negative media campaign. We ask that you engage the full force of the USDA and your personal influence to reverse the unjustified tsunami that threatens to take down a great Iowa company.

Sincerely,

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** News  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 5:31:51 AM  
**Attachments:** [Governors try to rescue pink slime production - CBS News.mht](#)

---

FYI.

I would not prefer to consume this. Finley textured lean beef. I call ammonia chips.

(b) (6)  
Consumer Safety Inspector, IIC.  
Kinston, N.C. 1936M  
Establishment  
Smithfield Foods  
USDA (b) (6)  
cell (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Khan, Atiya - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** OCR Leg Directors Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:46:32 PM

---

I reported that our hearing went well and we had basically nothing else to report.

-----

The Department feels the agencies have prepared well for the approps hearings. The only unexpected element so far was that there is already a lot of Farm Bill talk in the approps hearings. The Secretary will be up at the Senate approps hearing on the 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> –the Senate doesn't do individual agencies (within a Department).

The FDA is going to issue a new directive on animal antibiotics – rolling it out this Friday – that antibiotics have to get a veterinarian prescription. They did a guidance last year to the same effect but that was non-binding, and a few months back requested the withdrawal of antibiotics important to human health.

Ashley Johnson asked (b) (6) (of AMS) what's happening on the "pink slime" issue. (b) (6) responded that a Decision Memo is on its way to the Secretary, already in the OES tracking system but is not yet out of AMS.

(b) (6), III

Legislative Analyst

FSIS Congressional and Public Affairs Office

US Department of Agriculture

Room 1180 South Building

1400 Independence Avenue SW

Washington DC 20250

(b) (6)

202-690-0460 fax

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSJS  
**To:** [Shaw, William - FSJS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSJS  
**Subject:** Oct AskFsis Question xls.xls  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 12:30:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [2 Oct AskFsis Question xls.xls](#)

---

From: [Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS](#)  
To: [Almanza, Al - FSIS](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#)  
Subject: OFS meeting  
Date: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 12:14:30 PM

---

I attended this morning's OFS meeting. We can chat more about this, but I wanted to give you a brief recap:

- Regarding (b) (6) request to visit a HIMP plant with approximately 9 other consumer advocates – Dr. Hagen and Brian think this is a good idea, as long as the group takes the same tour of a non-HIMP facility, so they have a frame of reference. Brian thought it would be beneficial for them to take the same type of tour as he did.
- Australia – Dr. Hagen said the Aus/NZ trip will work for the week of April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Half-Day planning retreat – (b) (6) (b) (6) and I will work on planning this half-day offsite.
- Given today's press on "pink slime," Dr. Hagen needs talking points before Thursday's hearing. Chris Gould will get this to her.
- (b) (6) is requesting weekly "ASP" updates from the Under Secretaries.
- (b) (6) and (b) (6) were scheduled to give us an update on the Administrative Services Project, but they mostly just asked what they could be doing better. (b) (6) acknowledged that most of the 27 "low hanging fruit" items are not as easy to attain for a "quick win" as they initially thought. Dr. Hagen was very open in her assessment of the project and in giving feedback on ways to improve.

Carmen

Carmen M. Rottenberg  
Chief of Staff

Office of the Administrator

Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Ave., SW

Washington, D.C. 20250

Telephone: (202) 720-6618

Fax: (202) 690-0550

Email: [carmen.rottenberg@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carmen.rottenberg@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**To:** (b) (6) - OSEC; [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); (b) (6) - OSEC; [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC; [Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC](#); [Ronholm, Brian - OSEC](#)  
**Subject:** OFS Update Meeting with OSEC  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:37:29 PM

---

Hi Everyone,

Here is our agenda for tomorrow's update meeting. Please let me know if there is anything that needs to be added.

Pink Slime

PSR

Upcoming Rollouts:

Traceback

Validation

Residue Compliance Guidance

Thanks,

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**To:** (b) (6) - OSEC; Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Chan, Stephanie - OC; Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - OSEC; JIC2, OC - OC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - OC; JIC2, OC - OC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - FSIS; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - OSEC; West, Walinda - FSIS; (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Bcc:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; West, Walinda - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** OFS Weekly Report  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:10:20 AM  
**Attachments:** [Weekly Report to the President - March 27 2012.docx](#)

---

Good Morning

Attached is the weekly report from the Office of Food Safety.

Have a great day.

(b) (6)  
Office of the Under Secretary  
for Food Safety  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Rm. 227-E  
Washington, DC 20250-0121  
(b) (6) 1 -- ofc  
(202) 690-0820 -- fax

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** OMG The Doctors  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2012 3:13:54 PM

---

Right now on the Doctors they are doing "What is in your food." They just showed "pink slime" and next up is Chemical baths etc for poultry. This episode will probably be on tomorrow morning too. YUCK!!! Phones will be ringing tomorrow.

Though they are saying "This stuff is ok, to lower Ecoli, but ammonium hydroxide (floor cleaner!!!)

(b) (6) Senior Technical Advisor  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

Phone (b) (6) Fax (202) 245-4792

1400 Independence Ave., S.W. - Stop 3784  
Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor Room 8-161A  
Washington, DC 20250

[Submit your questions to...](#)

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

**Please include your name and/or company name, phone number and complete e-mail address so that we may promptly reply to your inquiries.**

FSIS, Labeling and Program Delivery Division

**Website:** <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/larc/index.htm>

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**From:** [Monifa.MomsRising.org](mailto:Monifa.MomsRising.org)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** One more favor on pink slime!  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:22:22 PM

---

Thank you for taking action on pink slime! Could you share this action with your friends and family, and through social media? The more signatures, the stronger our message.

Here's the link so you have it handy: <http://action.momsrising.org/sign/nopinkslime/>

Thanks!

--Monifa

[You can unsubscribe from this mailing list at any time.](#)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** OPPD Referral Letter ICAD-12-0040  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:42:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [OPPD Referral Letter ICAD-12-0040.docx](#)

---

(b) (6)

I have enclosed the OPPD referral letter for your review and electronic signature.

Regards,

(b) (6)

Management Analyst  
USDA/FSIS/OPEER/ICAD  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 690-0071

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [undisclosed-recipients@custhelp.com](mailto:undisclosed-recipients@custhelp.com)  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** PDD Weekly Summary/Detail Activity Report  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:04:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [OPPD New PDD Weekly SummaryDetail Activity Report.pdf](#)

---

This report captures when an email or phone call is first created and then all the responses to the incident over a set period of time

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** peer review pink slime at retail?  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:13:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [FW Message from Internet User - Pink Slime.msg.msg](#)  
[Pink Slime.Kroger - A Hayes 7201542\\_DRAFT.docx](#)  
[Kroger announcement.pdf](#)

---

If you would have time to take a look, I'd greatly appreciate it. I wasn't sure where to put in the line about Kroger announcing they weren't going to have it anymore?

Tell me what you think.

Thank you!

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** [McKean, Jennifer - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** PHIS data  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 12:46:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [Tasks\\_E\\_DataDump20184.xls](#)  
[Tasks\\_E\\_DataDump2933.xls](#)  
[Tasks\\_E\\_DataDump2289.xls](#)

---

Here are the tasks completed at the three plants in the North Richland Hills assignment. Please note the ID warehouse. Only two tasks performed during the entire time I ran the report (12/1/11 through 3/16/12) which tells me he hasn't been there and has not signed a single export certificate there according to PHIS data.

He has tons of tasks scheduled but not very many actually completed. Also interestingly enough he is completing AMR tasks (I know that Tyson does not do AMR product) as well as PDFBFT which is basically the "pink slime" produced at BPI and some of the other big beef plants (pretty sure they don't make it at the Tyson in North Richland Hills).

I am going to send screen shots of his task calendar in some separate emails. That way you can see what days pre op was scheduled and performed, as well as when he has it scheduled for next week. If you need help interpreting this stuff, let me know.

Jennifer Beasley-McKean, DVM

District Manager

Dallas District Office

1100 Commerce Street Rm 516

Dallas, TX 75242

(214) 767-1253

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: PHIS updates for the OFS monthly to the OSec  
Date: Friday, March 23, 2012 2:15:07 PM

---

Good afternoon!

Do you have any updates for the March report to OSec? Below is the training portion of last month's PHIS entry. We will also like cover the new poultry slaughter rule, non-O157-STECS, and pink slime. If you have something related to those or if you have another items you think should be included, just let me know.

Thanks.

## PHIS

Concurrently, FSIS is in the process of gathering requirements to update all PHIS training materials and procedures. This will include an update to the in-class system and will eventually include imports after deployment. ~~On February 18, corrections were made to several more establishment numbers that had been inaccurately entered or not entered at all during the manual data load process. (Corrections were made to the first group of establishments in December.) This correction, which does not involve any functionality change to PHIS, enables other FSIS applications, such as lab sampling systems, to properly communicate with PHIS.~~

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)  
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[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**To:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Phone Call from the Washington Post  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:29:31 PM

---

Neil and Dirk

I have a feeling this should go to FNS.

Elizabeth Flock with the Washington Post called and would like to speak with someone about the emonia hydroxied in school lunches – pink slime.

Her number is 773-414-4047.

(b) (6) "  
Office of the Under Secretary  
for Food Safety  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Rm. 227-E  
Washington, DC 20250-0121  
(b) (6) -- ofc  
(202) 690-0820 -- fax

**From:** [Williams, Charles - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** PID weekly report  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:37:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [WEEKLY REPORT 3-12-12.docx](#)

---

Charles E. Williams  
Director  
Policy Issuances Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development  
FSIS/USDA  
Phone: (202) 720-3885  
Fax: (202) 690-0486



**From:** [Williams, Charles - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** PID weekly report  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 8:29:25 AM  
**Attachments:** [WEEKLY REPORT 3-19-12.docx](#)

---

Charles E. Williams  
Director  
Policy Issuances Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development  
FSIS/USDA  
Phone: (202) 720-3885  
Fax: (202) 690-0486

**From:** [Bob Monahan](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Pink slim  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 5:57:56 PM

---

I just bought some burger and it was full of pink slime, Im not a bit happy! I want your bosses number.

Pink Eddy, I mean Bob

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime - Ammonia in Beef letters  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 9:30:42 AM  
**Attachments:** [Signed copy of Kelso Anderson ammonia 6850392.docx](#)

---

Good Morning (b) (6)

FYI – Pink slime language was approved by Dan to autopen. No review or clearance is required. The writer only needs to put the letter in final, and (b) (6) would forward to (b) (6) to autopen. See approved language attached.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (202) 720-7609*

*Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)*

*"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime - Ammonia in Beef  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 9:19:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [Final copy - Elizabeth Balmer ammonia 6846124.docx](#)

---

Good Morning (b) (6)

FYI.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) Issues Analyst

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

*"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"*

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Pink slime -- FW: Constituent call  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 12:47:49 PM

---

I received this response from Rachel E. regarding the constituent call.

Will this work?

Mr. Sanderson,

This is in response to your questions about pink slime—who authorized the use of pink slime and under what guidelines.

Pink slime is another term for ammoniated boneless beef trimmings or similar products.

USDA has not issued guidelines on “pink slime.”

USDA’s food safety focus is on prevention. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service consider ammonium hydroxide as “generally recognized as safe.” Ammonium hydroxide is effective in reducing the presence of harmful bacteria in raw beef, especially *E. coli* O157:H7, when used appropriately.

---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 12:23 PM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Constituent call

Hi Peggy--We wouldn’t issue guidelines on “pink slime.” Directive 10,010.1 (O157:H7 directives) includes sampling instructions for ammoniated product. But I’m not sure that addresses the issue. I’m not sure what you’re looking for. Something else that we’ve published?

---

**From:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 9:21 AM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** Constituent call

Rachel,

It was suggested here that I contact OPPD.

Are there any guidelines for pink slime (ammoniated boneless beef trimmings or similar products) on the web?

We have a constituent calling asking: “Who authorized the use of pink slime and under what guidelines?”

Is there any information we can give out at this time?

Thanks.

Peggy

Peggy Riek, Public Affairs Specialist

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Ave., SW, Rm. 1175-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202-720-7608; Fax: 202-690-0460

Margaret.Riek@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**To:**

(b) (6)

(State of Ohio) - FSIS; (b) (6)

**Subject:** Pink slime

**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:08:27 PM

**Attachments:** [Pink slime.docx](#)

---

Attached please find information relative to a current topic of interest. The fuss is mainly due to the product's being labeled with the unsavory term, pink slime. Advanced meat recovery systems have been used by industry for years as means to lose as little meat from carcasses as possible. This is such a process – the same appearance as hot dogs before cooking and chicken nuggets.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:41:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [Food Safety News.docx](#)

---

According to this article the pink slime is from a process called (ammonia hydroxide). This is not the same as AMR. AMR is done by pressure only. Bone is loaded into a chamber and then a cylinder compresses the material as “squeezes” the tissue through a fine screen.

(b) (6) , E.I.A.O.

*215 Dean A. McGee, Rm 424*

*Oklahoma City, OK. 73102*

*Office (b) (6)*

*Cell (b) (6)*

*Fax (405) 231-4214*



**From:** [Erin Chavez](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime article  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:08:04 AM

---

<http://www.wfaa.com/home/pink-slime-5pm-143721896.html>

Articles like this are popping up all over- thats why I asked if you knew anything about it. (b) (6) posted this one on FB. It seems like the "pink slime" has been used for a long time and it's just popping up as a controversy now. I don't know much about it though...kind of reminds me of controversy with GMO, where everyone is jumping on bandwagon without all info...but I don't really know.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime as topic in Ask Karen?  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:51:27 AM

---

Hi (b) (6)

I have a few Ask Karen emails about the “pink slime” issue. Do we have it as a topic in Ask Karen, at least for our recording purposes. I can’t remember and can’t find it if I did?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

**From:** [John Munsell](#)  
**To:** ["](#)  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime by USDA Design  
**Date:** Sunday, March 25, 2012 5:16:45 PM

---

Everyone:

The media has been awash with a plethora of articles about "***Pink Slime***", referring to treatment of beef trimmings with ammonia hydroxide. I suggest that the real issue is not the chemical treatment, but why such treatments are deemed necessary on meat coursing through commerce in containers proudly bearing the official USDA Mark of Inspection. Realizing these trimmings had already been "*USDA Inspected and Passed*", how can USDA classify such trimmings as "*High Risk*", and why must these approved trimmings be further purified? Last Friday, Food Safety News published my brief comments which address these troubling questions. You won't like what you read.

<http://johnmunsell.com/blog/?p=100>

**From:** [Van, Diane - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; [Van, Diane - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Tuverson, Robert - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Calls  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:29:36 AM

Hotline Staff,

When you get an irate caller who is complaining that USDA should require labeling on products containing Ammonium Hydroxide (pink slime), here is a response you can give. This will very often diffuse an irate caller. All they really want is to be heard and register their complaint. If they think they are being heard they will calm down almost immediately. You can use this style of response for other irate callers as well. Always tell them (and it's true) that we are recording their concern. You do not have to use this wording verbatim:

"I understand your concern about the labeling of products that contain Ammonium Hydroxide. We record each call in our database and I have entered your concerns. The Agency periodically reviews our database and they will see your concern that you have registered."

Diane Van  
Deputy Director, Food Safety Education Staff

Office of Public Affairs &amp; Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service  
5601 Sunnyside Ave., 2-L292  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301-344-4777 Phone  
301-504-0203 Fax  
202-306-3857 Blackberry

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** "pink slime" calls  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:16:58 AM

---

Let me know how many calls you've got this week so far on 'pink slime' calls—

We'd like to know these numbers some time before 8:45 am this morning.

Thank you all

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Phone: 301-344-4763  
E-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime calls  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 10:18:54 AM

---

(b) (6)

Over the course of the last few weeks as the “pink slime” calls escalated, we have received media calls that have been forwarded to CPA, used the talking points provided by Dirk, and have entered many callers comments into our data base saying that we would be happy to record their comments about the subject.

In the Hotline email account, all emails regarding the “pink slime” topic have been forwarded to [fsis@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis@fsis.usda.gov) for ECIMS to respond.

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854  
or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Calls  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:24:20 PM

---

Hi (b) (6)

I only see that 7 calls were recorded related to the ammonium hydroxide issue yesterday. I thought you said there were 13? Is that number for calls, chats and emails or just calls?

Perhaps folks recorded them under a different topic or subtopic than what I had suggested. I know it's not technically an additive but for consistency purposes I need to keep that as the category. I just want to make sure we are capturing all the stats correctly.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

**From:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** pink slime campaign  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:17:29 PM

---

Carol,

No doubt you know about the change.org pink slime campaign, but you may want to make ECIMS aware that they may be called to come out to play on this one, too; knowing you, though, you have already done it.

<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-usda-to-stop-using-pink-slime-in-school-food#>



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime facts  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 9:15:29 AM  
**Attachments:** [PinkSlimeArticle.mht](#)

---

Good article on the true facts.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime folder (signed letters and emailed uploaded. Folder closed-7183242  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:48:38 AM

---

(b) (6)

**FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS**

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**(Desk)** (b) (6)

**(Fax) 202-720-7609**

**FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS**

TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION,

BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE

DR. MARTIN L. KING

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime food safety concerns a 'gross misunderstanding' - producer (fyi article)  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:20:52 AM

---

FYI article, from Foodproductiondaily.com, of March 13, 2012:

<http://bit.ly/ADGe5B>

-----  
(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Phone: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

## Food for Thought on Pink Slime

But perfect is relative, I suppose; and the onslaught of unfounded criticism continues. Set aside the occasional but continuing ramblings about whether ground beef is good for your heart (it is) or whether it increases your risk of cancer (it wont), additional heated debate persists regarding its overall safety and now -- it would appear -- its color. And, thus, the industry is once again confronted with yet another unfortunate example of reactive sensationalism quickly outpacing reason and science.

Will the madness ever stop?

Probably not. So, I won't spend any time here repeating or expanding upon the expert explanations regarding what, exactly, LFTB really is. It is beef. And, that issue, I think, is settled. What I will say, however, is that we should be careful not to expect ground beef to become something it is not.

We are extremely lucky to have access to such a tasty, plentiful, safe and affordable product. And, frankly, the health of our nation has in many ways been built on the same ground beef we now discount.

So, back your burgers. And, if you have any doubts, just ask your kids about how boring life would become without a virtually unlimited and affordable supply of burgers, meatballs, burritos and meatloaf.

And, yes, we also need to think about those who struggle just to put food on the table. We should be very careful, in the end, not to price ourselves out of our most basic needs -- like affordable protein. As one of my readers aptly noted a few months back, if we don't get our act together soon, "maybe we'll all have to start grilling steaks on the barbecue instead of burgers [just] to save ourselves a few bucks."

That'd be something.  
March 29, 2012

Comments:

Simply label the product "contains LFTB" and put it in the case next to beef with "no added LFTB". Let the consumer decide. Case closed. Many will still purchase the product with LFTB added because it will be cheaper. Many will purchase the other product because they prefer it and will be willing to pay for it. Seems like a simple matter.

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Posted by Daniel Pfeffer

**From:** [FSIS New Technology](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime in ground beef [Incident: 120323-000106]  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:54:09 PM

---

Recently you requested personal assistance from our on-line support center. Below is a summary of your request and our response.

Thank you for allowing us to be of service to you.

To update this question by email, please reply to this message. Because your reply will be automatically processed, you **MUST** enter your reply in the space below. Text entered into any other part of this message will be discarded.

[==> Please enter your reply below this line <==]

[==> Please enter your reply above this line <==]

[To access your question from our support site, click here.](#)

#### **Subject**

Pink Slime in ground beef

#### **Discussion Thread**

**Response Via Email** ((b) (6) )

03/27/2012 04:54 PM

Just to be clear, are you asking about ammoniated beef trimmings? Are you asking whether this product meets the definition of "meat" or whether it would be considered a "meat byproduct"? Do you have a specific concern with the incoming materials as it relates to the establishment to which you're assigned?

#### **Auto-Response**

03/27/2012 04:47 PM

Your question has been reassigned to the Labeling and Program Delivery Division. The reference number for your question is 120323-000106. You should receive a response from us within 5 business days.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/120124/username/kevo4anatone](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/120124/username/kevo4anatone)

Thank you,  
LPDD Staff

#### **Auto-Response**

03/23/2012 09:07 PM

Your message has been received at the FSIS Risk and Innovations Management Division (RIMD) and is being assigned to a Staff Specialist for response.

Our goal is to provide an accurate response as quickly as possible—in most instances, this will be within two working days. However, Retained Water Protocol submissions will be answered within 30 days and New Technologies notification and protocol submissions will be answered within 60 days.

If the response that you receive does not completely answer your technical concerns, you can telephone RMD for additional discussion at 1-(301) 504-0884 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday. Please refer to the incident number when calling for clarification.

The reference number for your question is 120323-000106.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/120124/username/kevo4anatone](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/120124/username/kevo4anatone)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Risk and Innovations Management Division.

**Customer By Web Form (Kenneth Bloom)**

03/23/2012 09:07 PM

The blocks of the "treated" beef fat/trimmings which go into the pink slime that is in many ground beef products, would that fall under 9CFR318.1(h)(2) as a "meat byproduct"? I ask this as the establishment I'm at brings this stuff in from another Federally Inspected establishment to be added to certain ground beef products.



**From:** (b) (6) .  
**To:** [mph hotline.fsis@usda.gov](mailto:mph hotline.fsis@usda.gov)  
**Bcc:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime in Hamburger  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:51:21 PM

---

The USDA need to revisit this false labeling or at least require accurate labeling of all ground beef sold with this nasty stuff in it. To me it's incredible that they can put scrap meat and chemicals into hamburger and call it food fit for humans. And we've been eating this stuff for year now. Truly disgusting.



**From:** [Monifa, MomsRising.org](http://Monifa.MomsRising.org)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime is on the run!  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:18:55 PM

---

Dear (b) (6)

You did it! Thousands of MomsRising members joined the chorus of concerned consumers about the presence of pink slime, also known as "LFTB" (lean, finely textured beef) in cafeterias, restaurants and supermarkets. Your voice made the difference and major changes have been made within corporations and the government affecting the food our families eat. In a matter of days:

- The government decided to allow school districts across the country to reject pink slime as part of their federally subsidized school foods programs. [1]
- Safeway --the 2nd largest supermarket chain in the country --announced that they will cease selling ground beef made of pink slime in their 1,400 stores nationwide. [2]
- Kroger - the LARGEST supermarket chain in the country with 2,435 supermarkets in 31 states, will no longer sell the additive in their beef [3]
- Pink slime is on the run! But it still isn't out of every grocery store, and labeling still isn't required. Let's increase the momentum.

**We're not done yet! Pink slime is still unlabeled and being sold in many grocery stores.**

[Take Action](#)

*\*We're not done yet! Pink slime is still unlabeled and being sold in many grocery stores. Tell the USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of all ground beef now, or at very least to require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide whether or not to buy it for our families.*  
<http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3214.667234.E26tfV&t=4>

Even though supermarket chains like Kroger and Safeway will no longer sell pink slime, and schools now have some say in whether or not to purchase meat containing LFTB, more work is needed to make sure all families know what they are eating when they buy meat at the store or when their children eat lunch at school.

What is pink slime?

"Pink slime" is a term used to describe a food additive made from spare beef trimmings that are treated with ammonium hydroxide to kill off E. Coli, salmonella, and other possible bacteria. [4] Until we raised our voices, it was in grocery stores, cafeterias, and restaurants across the nation. In fact, merely one week ago, an article noted, "ABC cited a former U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist in saying that 70% of supermarket ground beef contained the additive." [5]

That is all about to change!

Our voices are being heard! But we're not done yet. Pink slime is still unlabeled and being sold in many grocery stores.

*\*Let's increase our momentum and tell the USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least to require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide whether or not to buy it for our families. Click here: <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3214.667234.E26tfV&t=6>*

Why are mom and dads so concerned about what our families eat?

Our children are facing increasing health risks related to their diets. As parents, we make every effort to

feed them quality, wholesome foods but we can't do that if we don't even know what's in the products we buy. It's time to take pink slime off of the menu and off of grocery store shelves--or at least require it to be listed on food labels so moms and dads can decide what's in the best interest of their families.

Please spread the word and share this letter with neighbors, family, and friends. When moms speak-up families benefit!

- Monifa, Kristin and the whole MomsRising team

[1] CBS News - <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1731?akid=3214.667234.E26tfV&t=8>

[2] ABC News - <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1732?akid=3214.667234.E26tfV&t=10>

[3] Wall Street Journal - <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1733?akid=3214.667234.E26tfV&t=12>

[4] ABC News - <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1734?akid=3214.667234.E26tfV&t=14>

[5] LA Times <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1673?akid=3214.667234.E26tfV&t=16>

**Like what we're doing?** [Donate: We're a bootstrap, low overhead, mom run organization.](#) Your donations make the work of MomsRising.org possible--and we deeply appreciate your support. Every little bit counts.

---

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What should MomsRising tackle next? [Tell us what's on your mind](#).



[You can unsubscribe from this mailing list at any time.](#)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime letters  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 1:58:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [20120319104432675.pdf](#)

---

Dan, we have about 30 Pink Slime letters to go out in ECIMS. Do you want to sign them or can I just drop your signature in them. Thanks

(b) (6)

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

*(Fax) 202-720-7609*

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

*TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION.*

*BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE*

*DR. MARTIN L. KING*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime letters  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:54:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [Nancy Zazzaro-Pink Slime.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

Good Morning All,

For those of you working on "Pink Slime" letters, cleared language in a letter I prepared is going up for signature. Once the letter is signed, I will forward you a copy. However, I am quite sure that eventually, the language will be changed.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (202) 720-7609*

*Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)*

**Check your Steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basis/index.html>**

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Pink Slime letters  
Date: Monday, March 19, 2012 2:59:20 PM

---

(b) (6) I am waiting to hear back from Dan on the signature. Will let you know when I hear from him.

(b) (6)

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

*(Fax) 202-720-7609*

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

*TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION,*

*BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE*

*DR. MARTIN L. KING*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Q"s  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:46:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [Pink Slime March 2012.docx](#)

---

Brian, attached is a small sample of inquiries we're beginning to receive related to 'pink slime'

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Phone: 301-344-4763  
E-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov



From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?  
Date: Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:01:56 AM

---

Hi (b) (6)

I always seem to get confused about this topic. Is the "pink slime" the same as the TG enzyme and the same as what is in the Jamie Oliver show? Anyway, here are the questions from Ask Karen over the past few days. I've forwarded them to ECIMS. I had one call that was transferred to me from Israel about the TG enzyme yesterday. I handled that okay because I had talking points.

Anyway, here are the questions

1. 2/2/12 "how can you sleep at night allowing red slime ammonia treated crap to be added to beef? You ought to be ashamed, if not put in jail."
2. 2/2/12 "Why is pink slime allowed to be used?"
3. 2/1/12 "I just read an article that McDonald's will stop using "pink slime" (beef waste treated with ammonia) in their burgers. How can the USDA label "pink slime" safe?"
4. 2/1/12 I have been seeing lately a lot of information about food processing. The latest is that ammonia is added to ground beef. Is that true? I have two children to protect and would hate to think that in feeding them "healthy" food, I am in fact feeding them household cleaner. Any information you could give me on this would be helpful as I really am striving to give my children good foods. Thank you.
5. 2/1/12 I recently watch Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution and found out 70% of America's Beef is Treated with Ammonia. Even if it was 10% of America's beef it would be very disappointing.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wshlnRWnf30>

Please tell me that the USDA does NOT allow this type of meat to be sold in the US. Is this true?

6. 1/30/12 "Why do you allow ammonium hydroxide to be put into our food without warning us? YOU ARE SICK. Stop ceding to corporate interests. It is time to stand up for our planet and all its inhabitants. To do otherwise is not only anti-American, but anti-planet. We will no longer tolerate the choice of corporations and industry over the concerns of our only planet. Our greedy, fascist, corporate government is WAY out of control. The People are extremely sick of your greedy, corporate, power-hungry policies. Reel yourselves in or The Revolution will do your job for you. You have been warned."

(b) (6) RD RN

[REDACTED] on Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

[REDACTED]  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Phone (b) (6) [REDACTED]

(b) (6) [REDACTED] fsis.usda.gov  
[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Stats for Incidents - Ask Karen.xlsx  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 5:26:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [Pink Slime Stats for Incidents - Ask Karen.xlsx](#)

---

Hi,

The Statistics have not really changed much. We are averaging 5 inquiries a day for the Hotline and Ask Karen. It seems like more because the calls tend to be longer and they are complaining. The issue is the same, why isn't it labeled, why is it allowed, it's not safe, and now that USDA is giving the schools the option to purchase it one caller commented, "that's insane. Why would you allow it to still be sold in stores if you are allowing schools to opt out of it. He says the government is owned by big business."

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) @clemson.edu; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS (b) (6) ck - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime used in hamburger  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:25:55 PM

---

Dr. (b) (6) do you have any information on this subject? (b) (6) from Poston Packing company is getting questions from his customers and asked me about it. Thanks

Dr. (b) (6)

**From:** [Peter Doyle](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:53:01 PM

---

Hi Melissa, here is a link to the article, that talks about E.Coli and the components that LARGE, not *small*, (like Lowell Provision), plants use to make hamburger cheaper.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/04/health/04meat.html>

Peter

--

Peter Doyle  
Lowell Provision Co.  
978-454-5603  
Fax: 978-937-5299  
[www.lowellprovision.com](http://www.lowellprovision.com)

**"Your local partner in profitability."**

**From:** [Davis, Gary - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [McKean, Jennifer - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** pink slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:26:11 PM

---

Did you happen to notice who the former FSIS employee was who stated on national news that pink slime is not meat, and is a filler. It was Gerald Zernstein, who was moved around from policy to OPHS to OIA because he couldn't perform at the expected level of technical expertise. He never told them what kind of filler. It was sensational journalism at its best, he stated what they wanted him to without any questioning.

Gary A. Davis

Deputy District Manager

Dallas District Office

Phone: 214-767-9116

Fax: 214-767-8230

E-mail: [gary.davis@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gary.davis@fsis.usda.gov)

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6)  
Cc:  
Subject: pink slime  
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 11:55:32 AM

---

A colleague sent me these links about pink slime:

AMI has put together a great list of resources to educate about LTFB, including Q&As, Fact Sheets, YouTube Videos, and interviews, and information about Ammonium Hydroxide use/safety.

<http://www.meatsafety.org/>

On their website, you'll find a link to this video "The Facts About Lean Finely Textured Beef", produced by AMI:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDjPjmsKeh8&list=UUahyGGFVpVawZRgFmolyn6g&index=1&feature=plcp>

Finally you can check out this website, created by BPI, for even more information:

<http://pinkslimeisamyth.com>

(b) (6), DVM

Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian

USDA-FSIS-OFO

Philadelphia District

Saxonburg Circuit

(b) (6) Blackberry

1-800-637-6681 ext. (b) (6)

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**From:** [Eckhoff](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** pink slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 9:23:06 PM

---

This is about pink slime. Yuck  
check it out.

<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/sideshow/mcdonald-confirms-no-longer-using-pink-slime-chemicals-171209662.html>



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 3:26:30 PM

---

Hey...just pulled this one from askFSIS. Politically sensitive. Not sure I know the answers either. I can research the "safe for human consumption" question with FDA, New Technology, etc.

Any advice on answering this one? (b) (6)

Hello,

Recently in the media there has been an outbreak of information regarding the use ammonium hydroxide on beef trimmings to create "pink slime."

According to Beef Products, Inc. they use 10mg of man-made ammonium hydroxide to kill the E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria in their beef trimmings ("trimmings" are the pieces of lean meat and fat that are the result of taking larger pieces of meat and cutting them to meet customer specifications) along with the 30mg of naturally occurring ammonia in the beef itself.

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

AND

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

Thanks in advance!

Kat

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:10:34 PM

---

Hi (b) (6)

What is this "pink slime" I'm hearing about in ground beef? Do you know anything about it?  
Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Pink slime  
Date: Friday, March 16, 2012 8:27:25 AM

---

Did U get article, 3 columns in the article

(b) (6), FSIS

General Mills est. 05538

One Red Devil Road

Hannibal, Mo. 63401

USDA phone # (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) - FSIS

To:

(b) (6)

Subject: Pink slime

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:35:32 AM

---

Interesting. Years ago I did an FSA at this plant in Hyrum and gave them an NOIE. I also investigated the process and at that time was found acceptable.

*This aired last night on ABC channel 4 in SLC. They even implicated Stouffers.*

[http://www.abc4.com/content/news/top\\_stories/story/Pink-Slime-The-Inside-Story/vm2n3PWs60uax36dzhNGQ.csp](http://www.abc4.com/content/news/top_stories/story/Pink-Slime-The-Inside-Story/vm2n3PWs60uax36dzhNGQ.csp)

(b) (6), FLS Everett Circuit

USDA, FSIS, OFO

Fax: (360)629-8235

Ph: (b) (6)

"Life is Real Life is Earnest, but the goal is not the grave

**From:** (b) (6) .  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:40:32 AM

---

Fox News is about to address the media's recent slant on pink slime and the facts of its safety in food.

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) [\(OIG\)](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:09:14 AM

---

(b) (6)

Food Safety News had an article on Pink Slime. What is it? Also, is ammonia-hydroxide added to beef products?

[http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/the-lunch-tray-responds-to-beef-industry-defenses-of-pink-slime/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=120313](http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/the-lunch-tray-responds-to-beef-industry-defenses-of-pink-slime/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=120313)

(b) (6)

USDA/OIG  
21660 E. Copley St., Suite 370  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

(o) (b) (6)

(c) (b) (6)

(f) 909.396.9716

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:47:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [Pink Slime.docx](#)

---

*Interesting reading!!!*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:18:18 PM

---

Go to [www.msn.com](http://www.msn.com) and in the search box type pink slime

It is in hamburgers at McDonalds and school burgers, it is certified by USDA.

GROSS

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**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**To:** [Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:40:09 AM

---

Hello Dr. (b) (6)

Dr. (b) (6) was in Texas for two days to speak at Texas A & M, and while there she met with some former FSISers. The topic of pink slime came up.

We are sure that FSIS must have reviewed the product from a safety perspective at some time in the not too distant past. Can you let Dr. (b) (6) know when that review was done, and perhaps offer a short briefing? We made an inquiry to ARS about any research on it when all this brouhaha came up. They responded that they had not done research on the process, and we are not asking them for anything further on it.

Many thanks,

(b) (6)  
Special Assistant for Policy & Program Strategy  
USDA - Research, Education & Economics (REE)  
Room 320A Whitten Building, Washington, DC  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6)@osec.usda.gov



**From:** (b) (6) @juno.com  
**To:** (b) (6) - ESJS  
**Subject:** pink slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:20:00 PM

---

What is the Pink slime that is on the news?

**From:** [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:09:38 PM

---

Hi (b) (6)

Could you please update your records by correcting the sentence below, changing “that” to “the”

Through the Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA ensures that safety of the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and processed egg products.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSJS  
**To:** (b) (6) FSJS  
**Subject:** pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:39:06 AM

---

What do u know about pink slime it was in tv also is ever possible to change a contact point

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:31:58 AM

---

This is what we are up against nationwide. This came from KSDK.com site today.

(b) (6)

**DENVER (KUSA)** -- We've done stories on it before and chances are, you've heard about it. But "pink slime" is still making national headlines, and the topic is being discussed all over social-media sites.

Jennifer Weddig is a registered dietitian with a PhD in food science and human nutrition. She has also taught nutrition and weight management courses for more than 11 years at Metropolitan State College of Denver. 9NEWS wanted Jennifer to shed some light and her expertise on the topic.

"It's actually known as lean finely-textured beef. So, what it is is when a steak is cut or when another piece of meat is cut, they are the leftover pieces which are mostly fat and tiny bits of meat. They are pushed off onto the slaughter house floor, and those are the pieces that are collected, heated and then ground. So heating takes most of the fat off these pieces, and then the little pieces of meat that are taken off are then ground and are put into our ground beef as an additive," Weddig said.

What a lot of people are angry about is because they can't understand why they would be adding the ingredient.

"They do it to stretch the ground beef and to make ground beef less expensive and so one of the issues is, is that it's not labeled. So, when you go to the grocery store and you look at your ground beef, it doesn't say '85 percent ground beef, 15 percent lean finely textured beef,' or 'pink slime' or whatever we going to call it, it doesn't say that. I think that is the issue for the consumer. It's the truth in labeling," Weddig said.

She says that although it is not labeled, it should not be harmful to the human body.

"The USDA says it is not dangerous. Once they have treated it with ammonia, it has killed off most of the pathogenic bacteria; however, before it was mixed into ground beef, they found 48 cases of salmonella and three cases of E. coli," Weddig said.  
"Because it's a higher risk meat, there are more issues with it. Treating it with should kill off the pathogens but it's a pretty high-risk product."

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:38:20 PM

---

(b) (6)

It's official, the pink slime story has gone viral.

Once again, consumers outraged that it is not posted on the label. Not really talking about the ammonia, just the fact that it's not labeled on their ground beef.

Do we have any additional talking points?

(b) (6)

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854  
or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - 008  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:13:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [Pink Slime in neither.pdf](#)

---

(b) (6)

The attached has to be opened with Adobe, there are also a few links at the bottom of the article.

(b) (6)

[QA Tech](#)

T 207.871.0700 ext. (b) (6)

F 207.871.9775



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 9:47:45 AM

---

Under Secretary was Joann Smith and she stepped down in 1993 and went to work for BPI immediately. Here are the articles:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/where-you-can-get-pink-slime-free-beef/>

(b) (6)  
Senior Emergency Response Specialist  
USDA/FSIS  
Office of Data Integration and Food Protection  
Emergency Coordination Staff  
Rm. 9-143A Patriot Plaza 3  
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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:20:09 PM

---

This is just part of the article but from the location of the plants that shut down the operations I see Tyson written all over this. Those 4 places mentioned below are places which IBP had plants, which Tyson bought. When I first saw the name of the company they were blaming for the pink slime BPI, I thought of IBP. Funny how they hide behind names so they don't tarnish their good name.

Though the beef industry maintains that the product is safe and 100 percent beef, many consumers have continued to react to a process they see as suspect or at least unappetizing.

As a result, many fast food restaurants and grocery stores have stopped offering products with the additive, forcing BPI to lay off 650 workers at its plants in Waterloo, Iowa; Amarillo, Texas; and Garden City, Kan.

The facilities will remain closed for 60 days. And unless public sentiment shifts dramatically, there is a chance that the plants will remain closed permanently, said Rich Jochum, a BPI spokesman.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:08:21 AM  
**Attachments:** [Pink slime 3.docx](#)

---

Hi Guys,

One of my inspectors sent me this article and I found it very informative. Enjoy 😊 Hope you are all doing well – I am feeling much better and just trying to get back into the swing of things.

Take Care,

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:00:49 AM  
**Attachments:** [Pink Slime.docx](#)

---

FYI, you were asking about this. Enjoy.

(b) (6)

*CSI, Relief*

*Grand Rapids Mi.*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Saturday, March 24, 2012 10:37:35 AM

---

Good morning (b) (6)

**Just an FYI**

With all the issue in the news over "PINK SLIME" Boneless lean beef..Mr. Woods at Jensen Meat co. Informed me that it is effecting their business.. Some of their customers (about half) have request to eliminate this ingredient from their product, and as he put it he is waiting on the other half to drop he said it is about 12 million lbs of this product they use from BPI & IBP so he will be looking at reassessment.

We will be discussing this at our next weekly meeting when Mr. Woods has more info.

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) @tampabay.rr.com  
**To:** [MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov](mailto:MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov)  
**Bcc:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 11:05:11 AM

---

The ammonia treated "meat" by-products known as "pink slime" should not be allowed to be used for human consumption, especially not by our school children!

Donna L. Cahill

**From:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#); (b) (6) [DO15](#) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:36:00 PM

---

Do I have the only plant getting calls regarding "Pink Slime"? I don't know who came up with that term but they need a good slap upside the head!! There are numerous calls come into the plant every day now since this nonsense was reported. I think I may need an anger management class just until this issue is out of the public eye!! What a slap in the face to inspectors.

*Julie Parker*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 6:56:46 PM

---

This was just on ABC at 630pm. USDA scientist, Whistle blower said there is pink Slime in our ground beef. Former under secretary Joan Smith is also linked to this. There was also a former USDA microbiologist also in this too.

**From:** [Van, Diane - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#); [Tuverson, Robert - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:57:15 PM

---

As I indicated yesterday, we are beginning to get calls from angry parents of school age children that want to lodge complaints about the pink slime issue in school lunch. Is there a contact in AMS that we can refer these callers to? Also any additional talking points that you can share would be good.

Diane Van  
Deputy Director, Food Safety Education Staff

Office of Public Affairs & Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service  
5601 Sunnyside Ave., 2-L292  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301-344-4777 Phone  
301-504-0203 Fax  
202-306-3857 Blackberry



**From:** [Van, Diane - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:30:37 AM

---

(b) (6)

Have contacted downtown to see if they have any talking points for the Hotline on the pink slime? I heard it on the news last night.

Diane Van  
Deputy Director, Food Safety Education Staff

Office of Public Affairs & Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service  
5601 Sunnyside Ave., 2-L292  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301-344-4777 Phone  
301-504-0203 Fax  
202-306-3857 Blackberry

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: pink slime  
Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:35:02 AM

---

# Pink Slime, Ammonium Hydroxide Fast Food Ground Beef Additive, Dropped By McDonald's Et Al.

## 'Pink slime' food controversy faces health lawsuit

### Health and Safety

As Beef Products Incorporated's own website explains, ammonia is one pH level away from soapy water. Ammonia is present in a lot of foods as well as the human body; the South Dakota company raises the ammonia level in the beef trim to kill food borne pathogens. This trim is oddly shaped chunks of meat that tend to be on the outside of the carcass where the contamination ends up. Ammoniated beef has been proclaimed safe for consumption and free of E. coli for the last five years and is seen by many as an extremely effective process.

"It is kind of unfortunate how quickly some of this misinformation can spread," Dickson said in reference to the media reports of "pink slime." "Because it is really not like that. They have tried to do the right thing and have been unfairly dinged. It's a little frustrating."

While the process might be safe, some may question if treating substandard meat, previously was used to make dog food, with a substance that is commonly found in household cleaners, is healthy.

"A consumer wouldn't go into a store and buy trim," Dickson said.

According to the New York Times article, there are two reasons that make trim something that people would not go pick out at the store yet something that they eat regularly.

The first reason is that Americans demand food at a very low cost, lower than any other country.

The second is that Americans are unaware they are eating this product. Both the Federal Drug Administration and the USDA classify ammonium hydroxide as a processing agent and not an additive, therefore no product containing ammoniated beef is required to list it as an ingredient.

The beef used by ISU Dining is hormone and antibiotic free, but it is required to go through a processor as a safety precaution.

Both Hickory Park and The Café in Ames grind a lot of their own fresh meat daily.

I think they don't know what they are talking about!?!

(b) (6), EIAO

678 Front St., Suite 400

Grand Rapids, MI

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 616-458-0927

Blackberry #: (b) (6)

Personal cell: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) [FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 2:58:02 PM

---

Hey what a time to put company's out of work right?

The recall at Yamaya has been devastating. The seafood portion of the plant has been dark for some time now.

At least they have that booming meat business right 😊

**From:** [Marcie Phillips](#)  
**To:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**Subject:** pink slime  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 7:52:03 PM

---

I am writing to request the ban of Pink Slim in human grade beef products.  
Following the lead of other countries.. we in the US should NOT be subjected to  
this in our food. To have this product hiding in our food should not be allowed!

Thank you!  
Mrs Phillips

**From:** [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:12:39 PM

---

Also need you to update your records to ensure that we use the exact language as in the following paragraph:

All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** pink slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:01:43 PM

---

From: (b) (6)

Hi (b) (6)

I came across this article from the NY Times. I think it explains the safety issue very well.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/31/us/31meat.html?pagewanted=all>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:59:51 PM

---

I lied to you when I said SSI was done with the Lean Beef tissue (pink slime) –they are using what they have left in raw meatloaf (cracker barrel) and a little in AMPM cooked beef patties. When their inventory is gone that should be the end of it - unless something changes and a customer decides they want to use it. They are not using it in any raw beef patties.

The public has no idea how many products it is in – still a market for it as long as the consumer doesn't find out it's in there –ha!

(b) (6)

*Consumer Safety Inspector*

*SSI Food Service*

*Wilder, ID.*

(b) (6)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:14:51 AM  
**Attachments:** [Boneless lean beef trimmings.docx](#)

---

(b) (6) *DVM*

Frontline Supervisor

Flint Circuit 45-13

c/o Koegel Meats

3400 Bristol Rd

Flint, MI 48507

BB: (b) (6)

**From:** [Kevin Higgins](#)  
**To:** [MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov](mailto:MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov)  
**Bcc:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**Subject:** Pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:01:43 PM

---

Dear Dirk Fillpot:

I urge the USDA to stop feeding meat waste to our nation's children in the school lunch program. Further, I believe that no one should be eating this stuff. It is my understanding that the meat industry is making about \$500 million dollars per year from material that should only be fed to dogs and cats.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Higgins  
Columbia, South Carolina

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:41:56 AM

---

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink\\_slime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink_slime)

Found this, It appears to break down what you were explaining earlier. Most people that are computer friendly will hit Wikipedia for answers quicker than most resources available.

(b) (6)

*Administrative Assistant I*

*Head Quarters*

*MPID, NC Dept of Agric. and CS*

*Office* (b) (6)

*Fax 919-715-0182*

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:07:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [doc20120314160752.pdf](#)

---

When used in the current context, "Pink Slime" = Lean, finely textured beef. See attached article.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:27:00 AM

---

Sounds like Gerald Zirnstein and Carl Custer have had enough with keeping quiet about the BPI product from the news article i read on ABC last night. Off to the driving course today.

(b) (6)  
Program Auditor  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch  
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building  
1616 Capitol Ave, Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5980  
(b) (6) (402) 344-5104 (Fax)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

NOTICE: This message is legally privileged and/or confidential and is intended for the addressee(s). Immediately notify the sender and delete this message if it was received in error. Any unauthorized release is strictly prohibited and failure to act accordingly may result in disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution.

**From:** [TMV](#)  
**To:** [FSIS Labeling; MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov](#)  
**Bcc:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 9:36:48 AM

---

I want to know when filler has been added to the meat I buy. You must specifically define "meat" that is intended for human consumption as "muscle meat." If the product contains anything other than muscle tissue, then a label must be added to the package to alert the consumer. Not all of us want to eat chemically treated tripe!

Act now to remedy this issue!

Tina Valentine



**From:** [Ramzan, Mahmood - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:55:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

NSLP to offer choice on some products: LFTB, or no LFTB

By [Lisa M. Keefe](#) on 3/15/2012

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service is expected to announce today — perhaps as early as 1 p.m. EST — that it will begin identifying products offered through the National School Lunch Program that contain lean finely textured beef and, where possible, offer variations that do not include LFTB, sources told **Meatingplace**.



For example, schools will be able to choose between ordering bulk ground beef without LFTB or formed patties that include the product.

The decision has not been officially announced, but was leaked to *The Associated Press* and widely reported earlier today. Rich Jochum, spokesman for North Sioux City, S.D.-based Beef Products Inc., which supplies LFTB to the school lunch program, told **Meatingplace** that the company will have an official response when the USDA's announcement is made official later today.

How AMS's decision will be implemented through the NSLP system is as yet unclear. The program is a complicated tangle of individual arrangements with each school district, implemented through a series of suppliers and distributors, and purchases typically are locked in months in advance. However, schools are under pressure from parents and others to ensure that LFTB is not part of students' lunches, and are in turn pressuring AMS.

***Mahmood Ramzan DVM***

**Deputy District Manager**

**USDA/ Food Safety and Inspection Service**

**Beltsville District**

**5601 Sunnyside Ave Suite I-2288**

**Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Tel: 301-504-2136**

**Cell: 301-523-2440**

**email: [mahmood.ramzan@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:mahmood.ramzan@fsis.usda.gov)**



**From:** [Amber Hunter](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** pink slime?  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 9:24:54 AM

---

I have two questions for you.

**A.** What in the world is this pink slime being talked about in meats in like McDonalds and other fast food places.

**2.** Is there a possibility I could get a phone call around valentines? It's been almost a year since we've even spoke on the phone. I would enjoy that.

I have to tell you, I'm so disappointed in that pink slime thingy. I love a big mac a couple times a year and now I won't even eat fast food anymore. Yuck. Your thoughts....

**From:** [Elizabeth L Andress](#)  
**To:** [Van, Diane - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime?  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 5:30:54 PM

---

Is there any official release from USDA about the news on pink slime in ground beef? I couldn't find anything on the website in the newsroom.

Thanks!

-----  
(b) (6), Ph.D.  
Professor and Extension Food Safety Specialist  
University of Georgia  
208 Hoke Smith Annex  
Athens, GA 30602-4356  
phone: (b) (6)  
fax: (706) 542-1979  
email: (b) (6) [@uga.edu](#)  
web: [www.homefoodpreservation.com](http://www.homefoodpreservation.com)  
web: [www.gafamilies.com](http://www.gafamilies.com)  
-----

**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Chan, Stephanie - OC](#)  
**Cc:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime/Ammoniated Beef (NBC Houston Affiliate -- deadline 5 p.m. today)  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 4:12:59 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

Amy Davis

NBC affiliate in Houston

E-mail address: [adavis@kprc.com](mailto:adavis@kprc.com)

Phone: (832) 493-3946

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460

[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

**From:** [Dr. Jaime Rivera](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) @aol.com  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime" in its Hamburgers!  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 5:44:58 PM

---

Hooray!!! McDonalds No Longer Uses "Pink Slime" in its Hamburgers!

And You Still Think Its OK to Eat Fast Food????

McDonald's said this week that it was no longer using the controversial ground beef additive known as "pink slime" in its hamburger recipe. Taco Bell and Burger King have also reportedly repudiated the "slime," which consists of spare beef trimmings that have been treated with ammonium hydroxide to make them safe(?) and at least semi-palatable.

Actually this is "stuff" that is left over at the end of the day in the slaughter house (which would usually have to be thrown out and disposed of). It usually contains pathogenic bacteria and who-knows-what-else.

The move came after "Food Revolution" and "Naked Chef" star Jamie Oliver made public calls for chains to abandon the "slime," which has been manufactured by Beef Products, Inc. since 2001. Some are pointing to his advocacy as a central factor behind McDonald's decision.

Even if Oliver was the most prominent critic of "pink slime," though, he wasn't alone. The New York Times raised serious doubts about "pink slime" in a 2009 investigation of the product. It was also criticized in the 2010 documentary "Food Inc."

Part of the criticism stems from a general sense of disgust. People don't like hearing that they're eating spare trimmings of beef from strange parts of a cow. Nor, for that matter, do people like to hear that they're eating ammonia.

The USDA, for its part, approved the ammoniated beef trimmings. In 2007, when it mandated increased testing for most ground beef, it specifically exempted "pink slime," even though the ammoniated beef comes from parts of the cow most likely to harbor pathogenic bacteria. The USDA argued that the ammonia treatment of the beef by-products would kill any bacteria lingering in the beef.

The USDA says it wasn't wrong to call "pink slime" safe. Indeed, a Jan. 9 editorial in 'Food Safety News' argued that the public backlash against pink slime had more to do with fear-mongering on the part of figures like Oliver than with any rational assessment of the product itself. So apparently the USDA means that you shouldn't mind eating possibly contaminated beef by-products as long as they are treated with ammonia (a toxic product that is good for cleaning windows but certainly not as a food additive).

That said, the Times found evidence that linked Beef Products' ammoniated beef to dozens of cases of salmonella and E. coli, so there's a strong chance that it's even less safe than conventional beef. Moreover, using "pink slime" only cuts the price of ground beef by about three cents a pound. Aren't you willing to pay less than a penny more for your quarter-pounder to avoid gambling with your health?

...or, better yet, don't buy the quarter pounder in the first place (if they put "Pink Slime" in their hamburger for the past 10 years, what else are they putting in it...and not telling you???)

Be kinder than necessary,  
for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

[REDACTED] blessed day,

Dr. Jaime Rivera

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Plain Language Fact Sheets - Project plan (DRAFT) and progress update  
**Date:** Friday, February 10, 2012 3:37:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [02-10-12 DRAFTRIMDFACTSHEETPROJECTPLAN.doc](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

Good afternoon

Submitting on time as requested the attached DRAFT project plan.

**Project progress update:** I have been working with identified team members from OPACE and the Web Services staff and I have spoken personally with Bob Tuverson on amenability. The draft ammonium hydroxide Fact sheet has been provided to and reviewed by OPACE and Web Services staff and feedback has been received that is being incorporated in a revised draft that can move into clearance soon.

If a fact sheet is focused exclusively on the consuming public – not industry – OPACE is fine with our posting those fact sheets on their fact sheet site. A new posting category was discussed, but rejected; OPACE prefers to reduce the number of posting categories. If we develop fact sheets that are of interest to industry rather than the public, there are other posting venues available, e.g., Small Plant – HACCP site, etc.

Team meetings will be held telephonically with the first to discuss the revised draft in mid-February. Clearance of the Ammonium Hydroxide Fact sheet with publication (posting) in early March should be attainable depending on the time required for the document to be cleared.

Thank you. Have a great weekend!

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Plant meetings  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 12:48:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [M & M-\(12\) F.doc](#)  
[Medleys \(12\) F.doc](#)  
[S-\(12\) F.doc](#)  
[T-\(12\)- F.doc](#)  
[V \(12\) F.doc](#)

---

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

M & M-(12) F.doc  
Medleys (12) F.doc  
S-(12) F.doc  
T-(12)- F.doc  
V (12) F.doc

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Plant meetings  
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[T-\(12\)- F.doc](#)  
[V \(12\) F.doc](#)

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The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

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Medleys (12) F.doc  
S-(12) F.doc  
T-(12)- F.doc  
V (12) F.doc

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Please take the time to read this! For the love of AG in our country....  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:25:56 AM  
**Attachments:** [BLBT - Get The Facts.pdf](#)  
[Ammonia-EssentialForLife.pdf](#)

---

Below is some information concerning recent issues with "Pink Slime" aka BLBT or LFTB. Some of the information below is from different sources online, personal opinions of industry and academic professionals (proven by scientific data), and my own experience. Once you read thru it, PLEASE forward to as many people that you think need to know REAL information.

As all of the social and regular media has come down hard on the product called Lean Finely Textured Beef or Boneless Lean Beef Trim (please do not propagate the term "pink slime" as it is an incorrect term) that is made by Beef Products, Inc. The product in question is ammonium hydroxide and not the beef trimming that is utilized to make the products. You would probably not be aware that there is about 100 times more ammonium hydroxide in regular cheese than what is in the LFTB that is blended with ground beef (listen to Loos Tales below if you want to know all of the products that have ammonium hydroxide in it). I have attached a facts flyer (from [www.beefisbeef.com](http://www.beefisbeef.com)) that breaks down a cheeseburger to show you the concentration of ammonium hydroxide in each component of the burger. Although the media is not advertising that portion of information because nobody would believe that a hamburger bun is dangerous, right?

The purpose of this product helps alter the pH (raises it) of a food product, which limits and even prohibits the growth of bacteria. The product that BPI produces is as safe as any food product in the world because of the utilization of ammonium hydroxide. This enables companies (and the government) to provide lean, safe beef at a lower price.

And this product is NOT a new product. This product has been being produced for approximately 15 years, used by numerous companies, and approved by USDA. USDA is familiar with this process and inspects the facilities that the produce the trim and the facilities that produce the BLBT product.

I would also like to specifically address how some of the media has described what "beef trim" actually is. From some descriptions, beef trim is the pieces of meat that the industry scoops up off of the floor that would otherwise go to the trash or to pet food production. THIS IS NOT TRUE. For those of you who have bought "lip-on" steaks or a fatty roast, you have likely trimmed off the excess fat either before or after cooking. Guess what....that is exactly what the industry does to produce those beautiful steaks and roasts that you see in the meat case. The spare meat has to have somewhere to go. Our older generations used it to make stew meat while our generation has utilized technology to be able to better utilize the excess.

I'm sending all of this to you to request that you go to this White House Petition and sign in support against the decisions that the USDA has made based on misinformation. They delimited the use of BLBT in the school lunch program. They made this decision based on public outcry and NOT on scientific information that has been collected over the last 15 years. Only NOW is it a problem. This

will CERTAINLY increase the cost of beef in the grocery store, restaurants, and for the government programs.

In addition to the increased cost of beef products, there will be a huge hit to the economy in the areas where these production plants are. Currently only 1 of the 4 plants is in production and that production has been limited. All of these people will be unemployed all due to some bad press.

Here is the website to the White House Petition. Please take the time to register for an account and sign the petition. It shouldn't take more than a few minutes. If you do not see the confirmation email pop up in your inbox within a few moments, remember to check your junk folder to make sure it didn't accidentally go in there (mine did).

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/petitions/%21/petition/address-libel-slander-and-social-media-influencing-government-agency-decisions-usda-lean-finely/YZ5T4TLJ#thank-you=p>

Loos Tales has some information about LFTB that you might find interesting including the other food products that utilize more of this material in their manufacturing process

([http://www.facesofag.com/audio\\_files/loostalestuesday.mp3](http://www.facesofag.com/audio_files/loostalestuesday.mp3))

---

(b) (6)

Food Safety Quality Assurance Manager

Tyson Foods, Inc - NLR

3800 Progress Street

North Little Rock, AR 72114

Phone: 5(b) (6) - Fax: 479-717-0106 - Mobile: (b) (6)

*"I believe in Auburn and love it," George Petrie*

---

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Prepare Weekly FOIA Report - week ending March 30, 2012  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 2:36:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [3-30-12 Weekly FOIA Report.docx](#)  
[3-23-12 Weekly FOIA Report.docx](#)

---

Please forward report to (b) (6) and Delphine/Patrice tomorrow, March 30, 2012.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

Management Analyst

USDA/FSIS/FOIA

Washington, DC 20250

Office: (202) 720-2109

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; (b) (6) @gmail.com  
**Subject:** presentation documents  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:29:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [Goal 3 for MC-OFS Mar 21 DRAFT as of 3-2011 for theme 2.ppt](#)  
[Goal 3 for MC-OFS Mar 21 slides - final draft.pdf](#)  
[Strategic Goal 3-CB Presentation to MC and OFS 3-21 FINAL DRAFT.docx](#)

---

Here you go. I got stuck on the FOIA stuff, so used the numbers reported to you at the end of Feb. I can't calculate the backlog on my own. Just to fluid.

Slide 8 or 9 could use some cutting in the notes. The longest is the nutrition labeling. Maybe you can delete some but still read it all. I couldn't figure out what else to cut.

I've included a pdf of the slides since printing them can be confusing because you have to set up stuff every time (frame the slide, print notes – not slides...).

The Word version should be the closest to the slides. I renumbered them in the Word doc so the title slide is #1 to match the page numbers on the printout of the slides.

If you don't have any changes, you can use this pdf for printing. I must be losing it, because I didn't see a way to tell that printer in acrobat or PPT to print 2-sided. The font will be microscopic if you try to get two on one side.

If you need anything -- **Cell:** (b) (6). I'll be in the coordinators meeting starting at 8:30 if you really need something. I'm sure Allen would understand. :- ) we're meeting in AI's conference room.

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** [usacitizen1@usacitizen1](mailto:usacitizen1@usacitizen1)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [alfred.almanza@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:alfred.almanza@fsis.usda.gov); [deficitreduction@senate.gov](mailto:deficitreduction@senate.gov); [info@taxpayer.net](mailto:info@taxpayer.net); [media@cagw.org](mailto:media@cagw.org)  
**Subject:** public comment on federal register FW: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on board - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit  
**Date:** Saturday, March 24, 2012 6:57:37 PM

---

no beltway insiders should be chosen. you should look for an honest person. insiders are always chosen. that is why our federal govt is so insane these days. no common sense is being shown. present decisions issuing from usda are hurting america. many countries dont want to buy american food. they have to be pressured to do it. they know we are getting ge Frankenfood, cloning, and other horrors, where you dont label the bgh and other crap that is done to food. this agency is sick and dishonest to the public. the quality of who is on the present advisory board, in my opinion, is not good. it needs improvement. what is being done to american people by the lousy people working at the usda is beyond belief. giving us pink slime to eat - thats an indication. especially in these times of bovine spongiform encephalopathy.  
jean public

---

**To:** (b) (6)@live.com  
**Subject:** gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on board - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit  
**From:** (b) (6)@aol.com  
**Date:** Thu, 22 Mar 2012 10:30:09 -0400

[Federal Register Volume 77, Number 56 (Thursday, March 22, 2012)]  
[Notices]  
[Pages 16807-16809]  
From the Federal Register Online via the Government Printing Office [[www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov)]  
[FR Doc No: 2012-6895]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Food Safety Inspection Service  
[Docket No. FSIS-2012-0010]

Nominations for Membership on the National Advisory Committee on  
Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

-----

**SUMMARY:** This notice is announcing that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting nominations for membership to fill 16 vacancies on the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF).

NACMCF is seeking members with scientific expertise in the fields of epidemiology, food technology, microbiology (food, clinical, and predictive), toxicology, risk assessment, infectious disease, biostatistics, and other related sciences. NACMCF is seeking applications from persons from academia, industry, consumer groups, State governments, and the Federal Government, as well as all other interested persons with such expertise.

Please note that federally registered lobbyists cannot be considered for USDA advisory committee membership. Members can only serve on one USDA advisory committee at a time. All nominees will undergo a USDA background check.

Members who are not Federal government employees will be appointed to serve as non-compensated special government employees (SGEs). SGEs will be subject to appropriate conflict of interest statutes and standards of ethical conduct.

To receive consideration for serving on the NACMCF, a nominee must submit a resume and USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755. The resume or curriculum vitae must be limited to five one-sided pages and should include educational background, expertise, and a list of select publications. For submissions received that are more than five one-sided pages in length, only the first five pages will be reviewed. USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755 is available online at: <http://www.ocio.usda.gov/forms/doc/AD-755.pdf>.

**DATES:** Nominations including a cover letter to the Secretary, and the nominee's typed resume or curriculum vitae and a completed USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background

[[Page 16808]]

Information form AD-755 must be received by April 23, 2012. Self nominations are welcome.

ADDRESSES: Nomination packages including a cover letter to the Secretary accompanied by a resume and AD-755 form can be sent by mail to: Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Attn: National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Karen Thomas-Sharp, Advisory Committee Specialist, by telephone at 202-690-6620 or by email [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov).

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by either of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: This Web site (<http://www.regulations.gov>) provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this Web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Follow the online instructions at that site for submitting comments.

Mail, including CD-ROMS: Send to Docket Clerk, USDA, FSIS Docket Room, Patriots Plaza 3, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Mailstop 3782, Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

Hand- or courier-delivered items: Deliver to the Docket Clerk, USDA, FSIS Docket Room at Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. Street SW., Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2012-0010. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Docket: For access to background documents or comments received, go to the FSIS Docket Room at Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. Street SW., Room 8-164, Washington, DC 20250-3700 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The NACMCF was established in March 1988, in response to a recommendation in a 1985 report of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Food Protection, Subcommittee on Microbiological Criteria, "An Evaluation of the Role of Microbiological Criteria for Foods." The current charter for the NACMCF and other information about the Committee are available for viewing to the public on the FSIS Web site at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_Fsis/NACMCF/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/NACMCF/index.asp).

The Committee provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services concerning the development of microbiological criteria by which the safety and wholesomeness of food can be assessed. For example, the Committee assists in the development of criteria for microorganisms that indicate whether food has been processed using good manufacturing practices.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that recommendations made by the Committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department.

Given the complexity of issues, the full Committee expects to meet at least once a year by teleconference or in-person, and the meetings will be announced in the Federal Register. The subcommittees will meet as deemed necessary by the chairperson and will be held as working group meetings in an open public forum. Subcommittees also may meet through teleconference or by computer-based conferencing (Webinars). Subcommittees may invite technical experts to present information for consideration by the subcommittee. The subcommittee meetings will not be announced in the Federal Register. FSIS will announce the agenda and subcommittee working group meetings through the Constituent Update, available online at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news\\_events/Constituent\\_Update/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_events/Constituent_Update/index.asp).

NACMCF holds subcommittee meetings in order to accomplish the work of NACMCF; all subcommittee work is reviewed and approved during a public meeting of the full Committee, as announced in the Federal Register. All data and records available to the full Committee are expected to be available to the public when the full Committee reviews and approves the work of the subcommittee.

Advisory Committee members have a two-year term, renewable for two consecutive terms. Members are expected to attend all in-person meetings for the smooth functioning of this advisory committee. However, the Advisory Committee realizes that unexpected events or extenuating circumstances (e.g., a personal or family emergency) may result in a member's inability to attend an in-person meeting and that attendance through teleconferencing may be necessary. Some meetings may be held through teleconferencing and or Webinars exclusively.

Members must be prepared to work outside of scheduled Committee and subcommittee meetings and may be required to assist in document preparation. Committee members serve on a voluntary basis; however, travel expenses and per diem reimbursement are available.

##### Regarding Nominees Who Are Selected

All SGE and Federal government employee nominees who are selected must complete the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) 450 Confidential Financial Disclosure Report before rendering any advice or prior to their first meeting. All members will be reviewed for conflict of interest pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 208 in relation to specific NACMCF work charges. Financial disclosure updates will be required annually. Members must report any changes in financial holdings requiring additional disclosure. OGE 450 forms are available on-line at: <http://www.oge.gov/Financial-Disclosure/Confidential-Financial-Disclosure-450/OGE-Form-450/>.

#### Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this notice online through the FSIS Web page located at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations\\_and\\_policies/Federal\\_Register\\_Notices/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_and_policies/Federal_Register_Notices/index.asp).

FSIS will also make copies of this Federal Register publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is also available on the FSIS Web page. In addition, FSIS offers an electronic mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_and\\_Events/Email\\_Subscription/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_and_Events/Email_Subscription/). Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or

[[Page 16809]]

delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

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To file a written complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Done at Washington, DC, on March 19, 2012.  
Alfred V. Almanza,  
Administrator.  
[FR Doc. 2012-6895 Filed 3-21-12; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Q&A with Elisabeth Hagen, Part II: Poultry, "Pink Slime" and Labeling  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:56:25 AM

---

This web site is Elisabeth Hagen questions and answers about the poultry modernization. Still vague but every little bit of information is helpful.

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/qa-with-elisabeth-hagen-part-ii-poultry-pink-slime-and-labeling/>



**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Question  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:55:41 PM

---

What is this pink slime all about??

[http://eatocracy.cnn.com/2012/03/09/clarified-much-a-goo-about-pink-slime/?hpt=hp\\_bn8](http://eatocracy.cnn.com/2012/03/09/clarified-much-a-goo-about-pink-slime/?hpt=hp_bn8)

(b) (6)  
Management Analyst  
DCMA Denver (CSO)  
Office (b) (6)  
Fax (719) 540-7827

Satisfied with the service you received? We welcome your comments and feedback. Please fill out the customer satisfaction survey at [DCMA Internal Customer Satisfaction Survey](#).

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Question  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:23:31 PM

---

Hi (b) (6)

In all this discussion from FSIS about removing "pink slime" from ground beef....is this not the following true???

"Pink Slime" is Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB)

According to § 319.15(a), chopped beef and ground beef cannot contain LFTB.

According to § 319.15(b), hamburger cannot contain LFTB.

According to § 319.15(c), beef patties can contain LFTB.

Is it not fraud to put LFTB in something and call it chopped beef, ground beef, or hamburger.

(b) (6) // Consumer Safety Officer

USDA, FSIS, OPPD, Policy Development Division

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260

Omaha NE 68102-5908

(b) (6)

*Submit your questions to...*

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

**From:** (b) (6) @dshs.state.tx.us  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) @dshs.state.tx.us  
**Subject:** RE: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime'  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:05:46 AM

---

Wayne, finely textured ground beef is used in the production of ground beef patties and ground beef. It is usually combined with beef trim. It looks like emulsified pale meat. I have never heard it called pink slime. I am not surprised it is everywhere in the markets. Some of it is probably labeled 90/10 or 93/7. I don't think USDA checks on retail fat/ lean claims and the stores just get away with putting whatever will sell on the packages. I know I bought some 93/7 not long ago and I was surprised at how much fat cooked off. I don't think I'm buying my own grinder just yet. Maybe we should buy ground yardbird.

(b) (6), DVM  
MSA Veterinarian, TX01 Circuit  
6302 Iola Ave.  
Lubbock, TX 79424  
Office # (b) (6)  
Cell # (b) (6)  
Fax # 806-783-6435

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\) @fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 7:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) (DSHS); (b) (6) (DSHS)  
**Subject:** Spam?: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime'

Can you educate me on this??

I've never heard of this.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

**From:** email@addthis.com [<mailto:email@addthis.com>] On Behalf Of (b) (6) @gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 7:16 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime'

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/#.T1xBx5KYCM.email>

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Constituent call (re: pink slime) -- FW: Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution (info from OPPD)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 6:29:37 AM  
**Attachments:** [Isabelle\\_PinkSlime.pdf](#)

---

Good morning, Linda,

Here is more on the subject of "pink slime" from OPPD for the pending constituent call who had questions.

Dirk suggested I contact OPPD. I was unable to get any new OC language from Dirk – he said the issue was ongoing and maybe OPPD could help. They were meeting on the subject last week or the week before.

Last week, I suggested several responses to our constituent, **but then** this came in from OPPD on Friday (when I was working on N&N and the feature story and continuing layout adjustments. ☹)

Any thoughts on our response this week to the constituent so to close out the call in the tracker? Note: OPPD's info seems useful, but I don't think the constituent would understand.

Peggy

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**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 1:28 PM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Riek, Peggy - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution

Here is some background information that I have used for previous responses and an oled letter that was issued. It is unclear exactly what "pink slime" is but we believe they are referring to finely textured beef which is normally pink in appearance and commonly comes in chips or blocks. A large supplier of finely textured beef does trat their's with anhydrous ammonia.

Jeff

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 2:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6); McKee, Laura; (b) (6) Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn; Zeitz, David; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution

This one was a little different. Unlike the new inquiries, the old inquiry on pink slime never mentioned ammonia. We weren't sure if they meant ammonia so we focused on purge. I don't think we can use much of the language after all because the new inquiries specifically raise the use of ammonia. Here is a first stab for comment. Let me know what you think.

Jeff

Anhydrous ammonia is listed in FSIS Directive 7120.1 for use to treat ground beef and finely textured beef (FTB). Ground beef has a standard of identity in 9 CFR 319.15(a) and FTB is a meat food product produced from fresh meat trimmings that is subjected to low temperatures ranging from approximately 107° to 109°F to remove excess fat. FTB cannot have more than 30 percent fat unless it is identified as "Lean," e.g., "Lean Finely Textured Beef" whereby the fat content cannot exceed 10 percent. FTB may be used in the formulation of ground beef at up to 20 percent of the meat block as described in the Agriculture Marketing Service's (AMS) Institutional Meat Purchase Specifications (IMPS), Item Number 136.

In this case, FSIS has determined that the approved use of anhydrous ammonia to treat FTB and ground beef is consistent with FDA's definition of a processing aid and exempt from labeling. The web-links below provide additional information on the standard of identity for ground beef, FSIS Directive 7120.1, the Agency's compliance policy guide on the determination of processing aids, and the IMPS publication.

[http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr\\_2010/janqtr/pdf/9cfr319.15.pdf](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2010/janqtr/pdf/9cfr319.15.pdf)

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISDirectives/7120.1.pdf>

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Determination\\_of\\_Processing\\_Aids.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Determination_of_Processing_Aids.pdf)

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELDEV3003281>

---

**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 12:33 PM

**To:** Canavan, Jeff; McKee, Laura; (b) (6)

**Cc:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution

I think having some standard text that anyone could use would be great! And it wouldn't have to go through clearance so it could be accomplished faster.

(b) (6), Staff Officer

FSIS, OPPD, Policy Development Division

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260

Omaha, Nebraska 68102-5908



Consider the environment. Please don't print this e-mail unless you need it.

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**From:** Canavan, Jeff  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 11:17 AM  
**To:** McKee, Laura; (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution

(b) (6)

Yes, we can help. I think Jamie Oliver got the reference to "pink slime" last year when the NY Times ran a series on the use of ammonia to treat FTB and used the term. There were multiple FOIAs, etc. I think posting a Q and A may raise more questions. Do you think we can develop a response that can be used to respond to individual inquiries by staff so we are responding with a similar response instead? I know (b) (6) was looking for a response too.

Jeff

---

**From:** McKee, Laura  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 12:03 PM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff; (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6); (b) (6); McKee, Laura  
**Subject:** FW: Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution

Hi, I got Roz out of office, can one of you help? Thanks!

*Laura Hulse McKee, DVM*

USDA/FSIS/OPPD

Director, Policy Development Division

Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Ave. Suite 260

Omaha, NE. 68102

Office (b) (6)

Fax 402-344-5007

---

**From:** McKee, Laura  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 11:01 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn  
**Cc:** (b) (6); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution

We are getting some questions about use of anhydrous ammonia used as a processing aid. I think we need a QA published on it, can you help? Kim or Jose can work with your staff if needed. Thanks!

*Laura Hulse McKee, DVM*

USDA/FSIS/OPPD

Director, Policy Development Division

Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Ave. Suite 260

Omaha, NE. 68102

Office (b) (6)

Fax 402-344-5007

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**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 10:38 AM

**To:** McKee, Laura

**Subject:** Jamie Oliver's TV show- Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution

Laura

We have started getting questions regarding “ammonia” and “anhydrous ammonia” that were sparked by a recent TV show. Due to the intricacy of the issue (processing aid, good commercial practice, school lunches, etc) should we be sending the customers to LPDD or simply pointing them towards 7120.1?

<http://abc.go.com/shows/jamie-olivers-food-revolution>

(b) (6) r, Staff Officer

FSIS, OPPD, Policy Development Division

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260

Omaha, Nebraska 68102-5908



*Consider the environment. Please don't print this e-mail unless you need it.*



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: - pink slime hamburger  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 14, 2012 9:56:20 AM

---

Great news, and good eye...thank you!

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1162-S  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2012 9:56 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: - pink slime hamburger  
**Importance:** High

Hi (b) (6)

We have already responded to her. Please see attached signed copy. This one can be NRN.

Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!

(b) (6) Issues Analyst  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700  
Phone: (b) (6) Fax : (202) 720-7609  
Email: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2012 9:32 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: - pink slime hamburger

Another "pink slime":

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1162-S  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 10:48 AM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: - pink slime hamburger

Please see the attached.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) @goldennugget.com [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\) @goldennugget.com](mailto:(b) (6) @goldennugget.com)]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 12:22 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - pink slime hamburger

Why did you allow the meat packers to add PINK SLIME hamburger additive to our meat. Why is it not being labeled CONTAINS PINK SLIME ADDITIVE. We thought you were supposed to protect us not sell us out to special interests.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Revised Weekly Report to the President  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:17:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [Weekly Report to the President - March 27, 2012 \(rev\).docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

Good Morning:

Attached is a revised version of the Weekly Report to the President for March 27. Please let me know if you have questions.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Weekly Report to the President - March 27  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:02:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [Weekly Report to the President - March 27, 2012.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

Hi Carol,

This week's President report is attached for your review/clearance.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:06:34 AM

---

Hmmmm—neither did I—(b) (6) who is doing mechanically tenderized beef didn't either—wonder if what he really meant was this pink slime ---ABC has it on Nightly News like every night—apparently, no one at FSIS will talk to the press—how unlike Dan--LOL

(b) (6) Ph.D.

Senior Economist

Food Safety & Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 720-0582

e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:04 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

I don't, sorry.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:57 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:**

(b) (6)

Do you know about something that is added to mechanically tenderized beef—has 3 initials, like mbm or msm or some such—

Was talking to the butcher at Balducci's about pink slime on Saturday and whether they grind their own beef—which they do.? Anyway, he started talking about that and I was clueless—

(b) (6) Ph.D.

Senior Economist

Food Safety & Inspection Service

[REDACTED]  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

[REDACTED] 0250

[REDACTED] (b) (6)

Fax: [REDACTED] (b) (6) 720-0582

e-mail: [REDACTED] (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 4:28:28 PM

---

Yeah, I have the same sort of thing, probably older than I am.

(b) (6), CSI

USDA, FSIS

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:25 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Yeah, I will stick my little hand grinder at home and on sale chuck roast I run through it.

(b) (6)

USDA FSIS

Relief CSI

Portland, OR

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

I bet we see some big sales on ground beef over the next few weeks from "cheaper" grocery chains.

(b) (6), CSI

USDA, FSIS

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:23 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Did you see that BPI is shutting down 3 of its "pink slime" plants? (b) (6) said they have 250 trucks that are in transit and everyone quit selling it. I bet he makes a bid on a bunch of it for 10 cents on the dollar. Amazing what a few newspaper headlines will do.

Jeremy

(b) (6)

USDA FSIS

Relief CSI

Portland, OR

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:20 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Hmm, yeah, that's what (b) (6) said... LOL

(b) (6), CSI

USDA, FSIS

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:17 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

No problem, but I am expensive! Hehe

(b) (6)

USDA FSIS

Relief CSI

Portland, OR



(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:08 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:**

Could you pick up the OT at Fulton today? I have a dentist appointment in Battle Ground at 1530, so I have to leave here at 1430. Not sure how late they will work, but I doubt it will be past 1530. T

Thanks!

(b) (6), *CSI*

USDA, FSIS

Portland, Oregon

President AFGE Local 1188

"Weekends don't count unless you spend  
them doing something completely pointless."

**-Calvin and Hobbes**

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:54:57 AM

---

Go for it

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:50 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

I'd offer to train you as a re-fresher.

Should I bring up "Pink-Slime" as another ingredient with re-work or a multitude of other potential issues????

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Lol most of the time, I wish I still was a CSI

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW:

Did you know you are still listed as a CSI in the address book? I'd be upset and get that changes ASAP with an attached APOLOGY!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:38 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Just for you...if it was John, forget-a-bout-it!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

I did appreciate that. Kind move

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:32 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

I'm sorry. I'll make it up to you!

I thought you just needed a break for talking...notice I directed it to the FLS and not you?!?  
!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:**

I am cancelling our donut date ☺

(b) (6)

Enforcement, Investigations and Analysis Officer

411 Waverly Oaks Dr.

Building 3, Suite 332

Waltham, MA.

(800) 772 - 7033 ext. (b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 5:29:12 PM

---

You've been quiet all day—(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) —

Am off duty in about 15 minutes---

What do you know about this 'pink slime'—ABC National News had a big story last night on it.

(b) (6) Ph.D.  
Senior Economist  
Food Safety & Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 720-0582  
e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Wow. Its Fredericksburg Va or Frederick Md. I don't know her but like her and her great article she submitted for this upcoming FOCUS.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:12 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

She was app't Director when the other guy retired—she was always gracious to me—but I was very grateful to have that little cubbie hole in DC—and let her know that. Is she a nail biter—don't know—I suspect she is a task master—she is a good size person—lives in Frederick, VA and was one of the one's that threatened to leave when we got sent to Beltsville—so that was one of the reasons that Int'l got to stay in South.

By really next to him—you mean under his skin?

(b) (6) Ph.D.

Senior Economist

Food Safety & Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 720-0582

e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:09 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Is Mary Stanley a nail bitter too? I don't think Ive met her but I have heard her name. Whoever it is got really next to him.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 7:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Ahhhhh—I was wondering what pushed him over the edge. No—that was (b) (6)  
—the Director is Mary Stanley.

(b) (6) Ph.D.

Senior Economist

Food Safety & Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 720-0582

e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 4:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE:

(b) (6) could no longer tolerate his manager is what I heard. Is that the same woman who weirded you out about that office you had in the building after you guys moved to Beltsville?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 3:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

(b) (6) is gone or at least I went to his retirement party—u did tell me about (b) (6)-June 1<sup>st</sup>, I think u said.

(b) (6) Ph.D.  
Food Safety & Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Patriots Plaza, SW  
Washin  
Phone: (b) (6)  
cell: (b) (6)  
Fax:  
e-mail: (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 3:13 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Did I tell that (b) (6) and (b) (6) are retiring?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:11 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Right---

(b) (6) is retiring end of this year—did u hear?

(b) (6) Ph.D.  
Food Safety & Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Patriots Plaza, SW  
Washin  
Phone: (b) (6)  
cell: (b) (6)  
Fax:  
e-mail: (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Personal preference I would imagine. I tend to get way more done at home because I have no interruptions (especially when I'm working on the newsletter) and I can listen to smooth jazz music in stereo. I also look forward to going to lunch at a place with healthy choices. However, I don't desire to do it every single day either. I need to interact with people on occasion. But just on occasion.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 11:40 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

We were told that only Tuesday was required and I was unable to do that b/c I am the WW Administrator. Apparently, (b) (6) is very pleased that I did that!

I see no point to WAH all that time--

(b) (6) Ph.D.  
Food Safety & Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Patriots Plaza, SW  
Washin  
Phone: (b) (6)  
cell:  
Fax:  
e-mail: (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 11:38 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

This is national telework week and most of us are working at home all week. You must like going in the office to hob knob with (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 11:36 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

I WAH Monday and Thursday this week—PPIII Tuesday and Wednesday—off Friday! ☺

(b) (6) Ph.D.  
Food Safety & Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Patriots Plaza, SW  
Washin  
Phone: (b) (6)  
cell: (b) (6)  
Fax:  
e-mail: (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:**

Are you working at home this entire week and did you register for Telework week? Apparently FSIS have a lower than average teleworking community and we need to fix it.

(b) (6)

Office of Policy & Program Development

PID, FSIS, USDA

South Bldg., Room 6083

(b) (6)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Cc:** McIntire, Richard - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:30:22 AM

---

Perfect, I'll include these!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:30 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** McIntire, Richard - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW:

To keep the theme going...!

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:24 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

[http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/in-defense-of-food-safety-leadership/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=120317](http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/in-defense-of-food-safety-leadership/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=120317)

Did we have this in there? I can't remember if I read it at home or in food safety news... If not, let's include it. Thanks!

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:19 AM  
To: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Cc: Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
Subject: RE:

Thanks!

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
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dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

-----Original Message-----

From: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:18 AM  
To: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
Subject: FW:

For food safety news today. Not sure who is producing.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
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Cell: (202) 557-4736  
carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:44 PM  
To: Almanza, Al - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Subject:

<http://news.discovery.com/human/pink-slime-psychology-120319.html>

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:45:27 PM

---

Agreed

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:28 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:**

I think we (USDA) need to be ready for what's in nuggets and hot dogs. Those kinds of questions are going to come. One of the tweets at #pinkslime said "I wonder how many people complaining about pink slime will feed their kids hot dogs tonight."

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:11:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Did you fill out a bracket? I finished mine last night...I've got MSU to win the damn thing.

(b) (6)  
Consumer Safety Inspector  
Est. 10202 M  
Geukes Meat Market LLC  
500 High St., Middleville MI, 49333  
(b) (6)

"worrying is like sitting in a rocking chair, it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere"-cow farmer

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:06 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

*Not bad at all!! I can't document in PHIS it won't let me in, Dr Sprik is having the same problem...Oh well something's we'll have to wait till Monday.*

(b) (6)  
CSI / EEOAC ViceChair person  
USDA - FSIS  
Est. # 2592,32143P, 10202, 20935P

c/o Byron Center Wholesale Meats  
8375 Freeland Ave. S.W.  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
616-878-1578 Ext (b) (6)

*Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile*



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:54 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Ok..

I figured out my leave hours by June. I will have a total of (b) (6) in June. 8 weeks out is (b) (6) hrs..I would be in the hole (b) (6). So that's (b) (6) ..not too bad..

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector

Est. 10202 M

Geukes Meat Market LLC

500 High St., Middleville MI, 49333

(b) (6)

"worrying is like sitting in a rocking chair, it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere"-cow farmer

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

*You can go & look at the records from a previous week & make sure that it is done correctly, like time/temps, initialed, preshipment, etc.*

(b) (6)

CSI / EEOAC ViceChair person

USDA - FSIS

Est. # 2592,32143P, 10202, 20935P

c/o Byron Center Wholesale Meats

8375 Freeland Ave. S.W.

Byron Center, MI 49315

616-878-1578 Ext. (b) (6)

*Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile*



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:41 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Kinda bored here now..(b) (6) gone, the processing room is soaping..just hanging out now. All is done..

When you perform a review of establishment data..what exactly do you look at?

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector  
Est. 10202 M  
Geukes Meat Market LLC  
500 High St., Middleville MI, 49333

(b) (6)

"worrying is like sitting in a rocking chair, it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere"-cow farmer

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:39 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

*Glad I could Help out!!!*

(b) (6)

CSI / EEOAC ViceChair person  
USDA - FSIS  
Est. # 2592,32143P, 10202, 20935P

c/o Byron Center Wholesale Meats  
8375 Freeland Ave. S.W.  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
616-878-1578 Ext (b) (6)

*Let your smile change the world , but don't let the world change your smile*



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

That's awesome! Hey this "pink slime" article...thanks for sending me that. My mother in law was bugging me about this. She saw this on fox news..she is great at getting certain parts of information and turning them all around into something that doesn't make any sense!

All I could gather from her is that burger is soaked in ammonia and it's called pink slime...she says this crap to me as I walk in the door...no "hi", or "how's your day" ..its all about some "pink slime"...ugh..so now I can print this off and let her read it... ☺

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector  
Est. 10202 M  
Geukes Meat Market LLC  
500 High St., Middleville MI, 49333

(b) (6)

"worrying is like sitting in a rocking chair, it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere"-cow farmer

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:01 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

*I'm hurrying up, (b) (6) is going to cover my OT after 4:00...YEAH!!!!*

(b) (6)

CSI / EEOAC ViceChair person  
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8375 Freeland Ave. S.W.  
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616-878-1578 Ext (b) (6)

*Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile*



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:39 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Well since its lunch time for me..facebook...lol serious reading!

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector  
Est. 10202 M  
Geukes Meat Market LLC  
500 High St., Middleville MI, 49333

(b) (6)

"worrying is like sitting in a rocking chair, it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere"-cow farmer

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

*What ya reading??*

(b) (6)  
CSI / EEOAC ViceChair person  
USDA - FSIS  
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8375 Freeland Ave. S.W.  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
616-878-1578 Ext. (b) (6)

*Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile*



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:36 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Hahahahahah...I was so engrossed in what I was reading that when this came through..I was like...is this a trick question... ☺ Yes it's here...lol

(b) (6)  
Consumer Safety Inspector  
Est. 10202 M  
Geukes Meat Market LLC  
500 High St., Middleville MI, 49333  
(b) (6)

"worrying is like sitting in a rocking chair, it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere"-cow farmer

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:35 PM



To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject:

*Is my mouse there??*

(b) (6)

CSI / EEOAC ViceChair person  
USDA - FSIS  
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c/o Byron Center Wholesale Meats  
8375 Freeland Ave. S.W.  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
616-878-1578 Ext (b) (6)

*Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile*



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:31:57 PM

---

I'm hearing 2 company's so far here and about 50% of all AFA

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:19 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re:

No objections. They give up using pink slime?

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 01:17 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:**

(b) (6) I came in early today cause there production numbers are down. And tomorrow there also not working and I'm going to come in early also if you don't have any objections.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 5:23:01 PM

---

OK—I'm off 2morrow—so enjoy your wk-end.

(b) (6) Ph.D.

Senior Economist

Food Safety & Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 720-0582

e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:28 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

It's the trim from trim. We don't need to worry about it because it's covered by the definition of ground beef.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

So, it is different from Trim, right?---the news makes it sound pretty unappetizing. Do we need to worry about it in the Grinder rule?

(b) (6) Ph.D.

Senior Economist

Food Safety & Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 720-0582

e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:10 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Pink slime is the stuff that's left over after you've cut, sliced, diced, and done everything else you can to get the meat off the bones. It's a mix of fat, probably some bone, teeny weeny slivers of meat, and who knows what else. It has to be doused with ammonia to ensure that it's pathogen-free.

Yes, she was.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:01 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:**

So what do we know about this "pink slime" that is all over the news—ABC Nat'l News last night---

(b) (6) was certainly in rare form at the egg NR mtg 2day.

(b) (6) Ph.D.  
Senior Economist  
Food Safety & Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 720-0582  
e-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:55:03 PM

---

Hard to believe but I was so busy I didn't check my email until now.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:37 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:**

Btw, I got gas yesterday in your neighborhood Exxon—the price for plus is up 23 cents since last Monday---OMG! It was \$3.99 before and is now \$4.22  
No wonder the press is in a flap—like they don't have enough to flap over with Pink slime!

Enjoy your day—got a new walk around phone—battery wasn't it!

(b) (6) Ph.D.  
Food Safety & Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washing  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Fax:  
e-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:05:30 PM

---

I guess I was polite! ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:01 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

I am in one of those moods today, so if the question had come to me, my response might have been,

“Here is the link to askFSIS - <http://askfsis.custhelp.com> - knock yourself out!”

(b) (6)

Policy Development Division Staff Officer

USDA, FSIS, OPPD, PDD

1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260

Omaha, NE 68102-5908

Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (402) 344-5005 E-mail: (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:50 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Exactly!!

I thought about sending her to Labeling, but decided not to complicate their lives, either.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:41 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Sorry to hear that! I don't know that you actually want to provide her with the answer because then she will keep coming back, but this is my take on what she is bugging you about.

What the Butcher is most likely referring to is MSG. This is a common flavor enhancer added to meat and other food products. You can tell her if she has questions about ingredients approved for use in the meat, poultry or egg products she eats, she should first look in 9 CFR 424.21 and then FSIS Directive 7120.1, for the ingredients approved for use in amenable products. MSG is not an allergen, but some people have a heightened sensitivity

to it. If it is in the meat, then it has to be on the ingredient statement of the product. If she just does a simple search on the FSIS web site or Google it, she will get more information than she wants.

You could also just send her to Labeling, or tell her to submit a question through askFSIS. Hope this helps a little.

(b) (6)

Policy Development Division Staff Officer

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Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (402) 344-5005 E-mail: (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:05 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** FW:

She's been bothering me about this since Thursday. I wish she'd just *leave me alone*.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:57 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:**

(b) (6)

Do you know about something that is added to mechanically tenderized beef—has 3 initials, like mbm or msm or some such—

Was talking to the butcher at Balducci's about pink slime on Saturday and whether they grind their own beef—which they do.? Anyway, he started talking about that and I was clueless—

(b) (6) Ph.D.

Senior Economist

Food Safety & Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 720-0582

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:48:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [image004.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)

---

*You can go back & click on one of mine & it will show you which regs I verified & want the findings were, that might help.*

(b) (6)  
CSI / EEOAC ViceChair person  
USDA - FSIS  
Est. # 2592,32143P, 10202, 20935P

c/o Byron Center Wholesale Meats  
8375 Freeland Ave. S.W.  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
616-878-1578 Ext. (b) (6)

*Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile*



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:41 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Kinda bored here now..(b) (6) gone, the processing room is soaping..just hanging out now. All is done..

When you perform a review of establishment data..what exactly do you look at?

(b) (6)  
Consumer Safety Inspector  
Est. 10202 M  
Geukes Meat Market LLC  
500 High St., Middleville MI, 49333  
(b) (6)

"worrying is like sitting in a rocking chair, it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere"-cow farmer

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:39 PM



To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE:

*Glad I could Help out!!!*

(b) (6)  
CSI / EEOAC ViceChair person  
USDA - FSIS  
Est. # 2592,32143P, 10202, 20935P

c/o Byron Center Wholesale Meats  
8375 Freeland Ave. S.W.  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
616-878-1578 Ext. (b) (6)

*Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile*



---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:05 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE:

That's awesome! Hey this "pink slime" article...thanks for sending me that. My mother in law was bugging me about this. She saw this on fox news..she is great at getting certain parts of information and turning them all around into something that doesn't make any sense!

All I could gather from her is that burger is soaked in ammonia and it's called pink slime...she says this crap to me as I walk in the door...no "hi", or "how's your day" ..its all about some "pink slime"...ugh..so now I can print this off and let her read it... ☺

(b) (6)  
Consumer Safety Inspector  
Est. 10202 M  
Geukes Meat Market LLC  
500 High St., Middleville MI, 49333  
(b) (6)

"worrying is like sitting in a rocking chair, it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere"-cow farmer

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:01 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE:

*I'm hurrying up, Aamen is going to cover my OT after 4:00...YEAH!!!!*

(b) (6)

CSI / EEOAC ViceChair person  
USDA - FSIS  
Est. # 2592,32143P, 10202, 20935P

c/o Byron Center Wholesale Meats  
8375 Freeland Ave. S.W.  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
616-878-1578 Ext. (b) (6)

*Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile*



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:39 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Well since its lunch time for me..facebook...lol serious reading!

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector  
Est. 10202 M  
Geukes Meat Market LLC  
500 High St., Middleville MI, 49333

(b) (6)

"worrying is like sitting in a rocking chair, it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere"-cow farmer

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

*What ya reading??*

(b) (6)

CSI / EEOAC ViceChair person  
USDA - FSIS  
Est. # 2592,32143P, 10202, 20935P

c/o Byron Center Wholesale Meats  
8375 Freeland Ave. S.W.  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
616-878-1578 Ext. (b) (6)

*Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile*



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:36 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Hahahahahah...I was so engrossed in what I was reading that when this came through..I was like...is this a trick question... ☺ Yes it's here...lol

(b) (6)  
Consumer Safety Inspector  
Est. 10202 M  
Geukes Meat Market LLC  
500 High St., Middleville MI, 49333  
269-795-3767

"worrying is like sitting in a rocking chair, it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere"-cow farmer

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:35 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:**

*Is my mouse there??*

(b) (6)  
CSI / EEOAC ViceChair person  
USDA - FSIS  
Est. # 2592,32143P, 10202, 20935P

c/o Byron Center Wholesale Meats  
8375 Freeland Ave. S.W.  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
616-878-1578 Ext. (b) (6)

*Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:40:52 AM

---

Sorry to hear that! I don't know that you actually want to provide her with the answer because then she will keep coming back, but this is my take on what she is bugging you about.

What the Butcher is most likely referring to is MSG. This is a common flavor enhancer added to meat and other food products. You can tell her if she has questions about ingredients approved for use in the meat, poultry or egg products she eats, she should first look in 9 CFR 424.21 and then FSIS Directive 7120.1, for the ingredients approved for use in amenable products. MSG is not an allergen, but some people have a heightened sensitivity to it. If it is in the meat, then it has to be on the ingredient statement of the product. If she just does a simple search on the FSIS web site or Google it, she will get more information than she wants.

You could also just send her to Labeling, or tell her to submit a question through askFSIS. Hope this helps a little.

(b) (6)

Policy Development Division Staff Officer  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, PDD  
1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260  
Omaha, NE 68102-5908

Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (402) 344-5005 E-mail: (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW:

She's been bothering me about this since Thursday. I wish she'd just *leave me alone*.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:57 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:**

(b) (6)

Do you know about something that is added to mechanically tenderized beef—has 3 initials, like mbm or msm or some such—

Was talking to the butcher at Balducci's about pink slime on Saturday and whether they grind their own beef—which they do.? Anyway, he started talking about that and I was clueless—

(b) (6) Ph.D.

Senior Economist

Food Safety & Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 720-0582

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6); (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) (DCUS/EPU1); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:54:51 AM

---

Yum Yum... I bet it tastes like bubblelicious or bazzoka bubble gum.

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@pplweb.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) (DCUS/EPU1); (b) (6)@rubinoinsurance.com; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW:

eparated meat.....gee, I wish we knew someone at the US Dept of meat who could do something about this, (b) (6)

o

<http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/01/31/10282876-mcdonalds-drops-use-of-gooey-ammonia-based-pink-slime-in-hamburger-meat>

Even more reason to go organic...

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:17:50 PM

---

*Would you want a bowling lesson Saturday morning?*

(b) (6), MT.ASCP.BB  
St Mary's Regional Blood Center  
2635 N. 7th Street  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81502  
(b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6) @stmarygj.org  
fax 970 244-7122

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:12 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE:

*When it rains, it pours.*

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6) @stmarygj.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:11 PM  
**To:** Gore, Melvin - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

*Great, now (b) (6) is wanting plans for weekend. I told her what I know, invited her to come, see what happens.*

(b) (6)

(b) (6), MT.ASCP.BB  
St Mary's Regional Blood Center  
2635 N. 7th Street  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81502  
(b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6) @stmarygj.org  
fax 970 244-7122

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:10 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE:

*It is like salt, safe but has generated a media feeding frenzy.*

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6) @stmarygj.org]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:09 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

*Somebody in the news was saying it was safe but don't eat it!*

(b) (6) MT.ASCP.BB  
St Mary's Regional Blood Center  
2635 N. 7th Street  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81502  
(b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6) @stmarygj.org  
fax 970 244-7122

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:08 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE:

**“Pink Slime” is an intervention added to certain beef trimming products as an aid to eliminate *E. coli* O157:H7 bacteria in the trimmings. I think it is basically sodium hydroxide and is listed in our book of meat additives as GRAS or Generally Recognized As Safe for use in meat and poultry products.**

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6) @stmarygj.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

*Hey (b) (6)-boy was asking me, ‘what is pink goo’ or something that is a hamburger additive?*

(b) (6), MT.ASCP.BB  
St Mary's Regional Blood Center  
2635 N. 7th Street  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81502  
(b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6) @stmarygj.org  
fax 970 244-7122

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:59 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:**

**You were correct: (b) (6) (b) (6) dialed me. Said he was talking to someone else and the phone started dialing me. He was very**



**apologetic. Told him no sweat, neither one of us heard it.**

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:02:11 PM

---

Thank you as always. Try to swap with (b) (6) for (b) (6) !

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:01 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re:

Lol if you have questions, feel free to call

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Will you give me a private tutorial, I really need the extra help?!?!?!?

You make it so much easier and interesting...seriously!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Go for it

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:50 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

I'd offer to train you as a re-fresher.

Should I bring up "Pink-Slime" as another ingredient with re-work or a multitude of other potential issues????

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Lol most of the time, I wish I still was a CSI

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW:

Did you know you are still listed as a CSI in the address book? I'd be upset and get that changes ASAP with an attached APOLOGY!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:38 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Just for you...if it was (b) (6) forget-a-bout-it!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

I did appreciate that. Kind move

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:32 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

I'm sorry. I'll make it up to you!

I thought you just needed a break for talking...notice I directed it to the FLS and not you?!?  
!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:**

I am cancelling our donut date ☺

(b) (6)

Enforcement, Investigations and Analysis Officer

411 Waverly Oaks Dr.

Building 3, Suite 332

Waltham, MA.

(800) 772 - 7033 ext. (b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:03:50 AM

---

I don't, sorry.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:57 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:**

(b) (6)

Do you know about something that is added to mechanically tenderized beef—has 3 initials, like mbm or msm or some such—

Was talking to the butcher at Balducci's about pink slime on Saturday and whether they grind their own beef—which they do.? Anyway, he started talking about that and I was clueless—

(b) (6) Ph.D.

Senior Economist

Food Safety & Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 720-0582

e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: [GEPTO] Re: Madison Marathon volunteering  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:29:40 PM

---

Thanks (b) (6) - I thought it was something like that - but thought it would also be good to send a redirect to the right folks who could answer the question. Thanks for answering the question for me.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)@sbcglobal.net  
**Subject:** Re: [GEPTO] Re: Madison Marathon volunteering

Hey (b) (6)

"Pink Slime" is Finely Textured Lean Beef. It is a process that manufacturers use in the meat processing industry to get as much meat protein as possible off of each carcass.

USDA has declared it as safe since its inception. Here is a news link

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/is-pink-slime-in-the-beef-at-your-grocery-store/>

that gives a brief summary of the information that has hit the fan recently.

Just FYI

(b) (6)

*Resource Management Assistant*

USDA-FSIS-OFO

Madison District Office

Park Bank Plaza Building

2810 Crossroads Drive Suite 3500

Madison, WI 53718-7969

phone: (b) (6)

fax: 608-240-4092

email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: ????  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 5:03:42 PM

---

Bah! Ojos que no ven, estómago que no siente. By the way, Escobar me dijo que ya todo se vendió y espera tu cheque la semana que viene.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS" (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>  
**To:** "(b) (6) @yahoo.com" (b) (6) @yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 2:39 PM  
**Subject:** Re: ????

Te mandare informacion al respecto y cuando sepas lo que es considera si vas a seguir comprando lor hamburger patties.

-----  
Sent using BlackBerry

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6) @yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** ????

What is pink slime????

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" calls for Wednesday  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 3:28:20 PM

---

Thanks so much for remembering (b) (6)

...still getting them I see.

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** "Pink Slime" calls for Wednesday

I have had 3 calls about "pink slime" today. I'm doing Hotline training at 3:00, so I'm sending you this in case I don't get back on the line today.

(b) (6)

**Food Safety Specialist**

**USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline**

**Room 2L254-B**

**5601 Sunnyside Ave.**

**Beltsville, MD 20705-5000**

(b) (6)

**Fax (301) 504-2092**



[REDACTED]

1 (888) MPHotline or 1 (888) 674-6854

[REDACTED]

(b) (6) [REDACTED] [fsis.usda.gov](https://fsis.usda.gov)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" discussion with Stone's  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 3:44:01 PM

---

I guess slim was okay until someone discovered it. ☺

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

BB# (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:21 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** "Pink Slime" discussion with Stone's

(b) (6)

We have been having discussions here at Stone's this morning regarding the "Pink Slime" on the news recently. There is supposed to be a news clip on ABC 4 tonight at 10 PM. Apparently BPI has suspended production in 3 operations already... What the Heck???? Where is our Agency on this??? Why have we not stepped up to set the record straight?? I know you won't have these answers but thought you would find it interesting as I do. ☺

Thanks,

Dr. (b) (6)

(b) (6), DVM-SVMO

Lewiston, UT mini-circuit

e-mail: (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

cell: (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" Information  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:00:39 PM

---

You're right!

He gave me this article he wrote:

<http://nobull.mikecallicrate.com/2012/03/28/pink-slime-dark-side-of-industrial-food-system-exposed/>

(b) (6), DVM

Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian (Relief)

G&C Packing Company, Est. 2262 M

240 South 21st St

Colorado Springs, CO 80904

(b) (6), gov't office

(b) (6), cell

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" Information

Thanks (b) (6)...I bet (b) (6) has been chewing on your ear over this issue. Thanks for the FW: Major changes to the FSIS NRP. I already got that one and filed it already.

Thanks bunches for the info

(b) (6)

*Colo Sprgs, CO Relief*

(b) (6) *Verizon*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)

(b) (6)

**Subject:** "Pink Slime" Information

Good morning,

Below is some information regarding the Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB), aka "pink slime". LFTB is a type of Advanced Meat Recovery (AMR) and is "essentially hamburger filler made from leftover trimmings once relegated to pet food and other byproducts. Because the trimmings are at risk for E. coli or Salmonella contamination, the company adds a mixture of ammonia and water (ammonium hydroxide) to kill bacteria."

On Monday, March 26, Beef Products Inc (BPI) announced they would suspend operations at 3 plants that produced LFTB. Major buyers of LFTB such as McDonalds, Safeway, and Burger King stopped buying after public outcry and controversy. This will affect large beef packers such as IBP, Cargill, and JBS, who supplied beef trimmings for the LFTB.

"The USDA received hundreds of requests to completely discontinue its use of LFTB in the school lunch program, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack said. He added that because the product is safe, contains less fat than other beef and is historically inexpensive, the USDA had no plans to remove LFTB from the lunch program. In response to nationwide concern among parents and school service providers about 'pink slime' being purchased by the national school lunch program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Thursday that next year it will give school districts the ability to choose whether they will serve the ammoniated beef product. The USDA said that while it believes all products it buys for the school lunch program, including Lean Finely Textured Beef, are "safe and nutritious" it would respond to customer demand to give schools additional options, so they can opt out of purchasing LFTB if they wish."

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/how-will-bpis-plant-closures-affect-americas-beef/>

Have a great day!

(b) (6)

(b) (6), DVM

Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian (Relief)

G&C Packing Company, Est. 2262 M

240 South 21st St

Colorado Springs, CO 80904

(b) (6) gov't office

(b) (6), cell

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" Information  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:36:57 PM

---

Thanks (b) (6) this is typical for media overkill.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" Information

FYI

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" Information  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 12:58:07 PM

---

Hey, you! Captain Lady person!

May 1 is the dead day of Beltsville DO! They have not offered other options for those displaced yet!  
(b) (6) EIAO supa, DVMS, CS, DM, DM and all supporting staff – gone end of April!!

What is up with you?

When a dog catches its tail – he be dizzy!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" Information  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:16:11 PM

---

Thanks. We are getting a lot of questions from both plant and civilians about this stuff.

Have a good one.

(b) (6), DVM

*Sunnyside Meats, Inc.*

*Est. # 27236M*

*253 CR 216*

*Durango, CO 81323*

*Phone: (b) (6)*

*Fax: 970 385-4838*

*"The future ain't what is used to be."*

*Yogi Berra*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" Information  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:42:41 PM

---

We all know it and this time the media hurt the entire beef industry not just us and ABC World News should re-track the story.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:41 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** "Pink Slime" Information

*I heard this morning on WBEN that USDA is fighting back on this, This whole issue began with ABC World News Tonight and is a bunch of bull.*



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:05:44 PM

---

(b) (6)

How about the one that (b) (6) put together combining things from Diane and Brian?

Would that help?

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Every question is worded differently and Brian's answer is very general...not sure if I can use it in all situations. ☹

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Can we use Brian Mabry's material?

Diane, should (b) (6) translate what Brian sent earlier to Spanish and use that information?

It could be used for both chat and webmails (Spanish)

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:57 PM  
**To:** Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Please advice on how to proceed. Should I answer the emails or ask them to email back in English?

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:55 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Obviously the response depends on the incoming message, but general language you can use for Spanish translation is below:

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OPACE/Managers; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** "Pink Slime" inquiries

Colleagues,

I know there have a number of calls from the public concerned about "pink slime." At this time, messaging comes from USDA OC since this is more than just a FSIS issue.

The only authorized statement you can give anyone who calls is below:

"All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe."

Most of it has centered around the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) announcing a purchase of the product (constituting about 3% (7,000,000 pounds) of their total beef purchases for the year) for the National School Lunch Program. The link is to a story that ran on ABC News on Wednesday night.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

There is also an online petition at [change.org](http://change.org) asking Sec. Vilsack and others associate with the school lunch program to stop purchasing the product, and it has gathered more than 11,000 signatures in about 3 days.

If you can provide an estimate of how many contacts from the public you have received, and if it is trending up or down, I'll be sure to make sure OC is kept informed. Sorry I don't have more you can use.

Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:03:36 PM

---

Will do – thanks,

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

I'm thinking all letters on this subject since Brian mentions "Most has centered around the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) announcing a purchase of the product (constituting about 3% (7,000,000 pounds) of their total beef purchases for the year) for the National School Lunch Program." Since he mentioned "most" of the messaging..." to me, implies beyond NSLP

Can you follow up with Brian for clarity.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:22:28 AM

---

Ok – thanks. If it's approved in the future feel free pass along, as it would help in guiding language used in our responses.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Just FYI, I produced a message map yesterday but OC didn't want to stray from the one message. If it comes up, Dirk or I can provide you a copy but it's not been "cleared" for use yet. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:56 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Thanks, Brian. Passing this along to our group.

**From:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:38:51 PM

---

Brian and Greg,

We got a call from David Fikes, Director of Consumer Affairs with FMI, on this subject. He'd like to speak with someone. I am going to email this statement and am also willing to call him, but given what he does, I am thinking that he will find this statement woefully inadequate and it won't allow for additional discussion. What else would you like to do in this case?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:49:05 AM

---

Thank you Brian

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

(b) (6)

I have asked both AMS and FNS for a contact number we could refer calls to, but haven't heard a thing back. Sorry. If they set something up I'll let y'all know. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:27 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Brian





**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

(b) (6) and I would like to know if we mention the petition to consumers or just keep track of comments?

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Please see below Brian's e-mail

Thank you.

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OPACE/Managers; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** "Pink Slime" inquiries

Colleagues,

I know there have a number of calls from the public concerned about “pink slime.” At this time, messaging comes from USDA OC since this is more than just a FSIS issue.

The only authorized statement you can give anyone who calls is below:

“All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.”

Most of it has centered around the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) announcing a purchase of the product (constituting about 3% (7,000,000 pounds) of their total beef purchases for the year) for the National School Lunch Program. The link is to a story that ran on ABC News on Wednesday night.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

There is also an online petition at change.org asking Sec. Vilsack and others associate with the school lunch program to stop purchasing the product, and it has gathered more than 11,000 signatures in about 3 days.

If you can provide an estimate of how many contacts from the public you have received, and if it is trending up or down, I’ll be sure to make sure OC is kept informed. Sorry I don’t have more you can use.

Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:15:57 AM

---

Sure,

As we discussed in our conference call meeting earlier that if that depending on the caller's needs, then we could offer the petition-related info.

This is something always there for consumers to do, if they choose to, though emphasizing safety would be first I think and that it's a quality issue.

These are USDA inspected products,..and as cited just below "All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety"

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: "Pink Slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:03:47 PM

---

Bryce,

There is another version that is specific to NSLP that I can provide on Monday that is also approved. Best ~ Brian

Brian K. Mabry  
Congressional and Media  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Please Note New Direct Dial  
tel. 202.720.9891 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 04:08 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Hi Brian,

Regarding the OC's guidance on messaging for these "pink slime" inquiries, can you confirm whether or not we are expected to use this language for **\*all\*** pink slime inquiries, or only those that specifically reference the School Lunch Program? My initial impression is that if a constituent is writing about, say, whether or not the ground beef they purchase at Wal Mart "has pink slime in it," a response mentioning USDA ground beef purchases would be unhelpful. It seems to me a more appropriate response would discuss ammonia hydroxide's status as a processing aid, FDA's role in the approval process, suitability v. safety, and so on.

However, if OC is saying that we use the language below in any and all inquiries about this subject, that answers my question.

Thoughts?

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

I'm thinking all letters on this subject since Brian mentions "Most has centered around the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) announcing a purchase of the product (constituting about 3% (7,000,000 pounds) of their total beef purchases for the year) for the National School Lunch Program." Since he mentioned "most" of the messaging..." to me, implies beyond NSLP

Can you follow up with Brian for clarity.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Sorry for the recall, but I realized my previous message made little sense. Here's another try:

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:43 PM  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Hi Rene,

Do you think we should use this language for all "pink slime" responses, or only those that reference or allude to the National School Lunch Program ground beef purchases?

Martha mentioned this potential distinction this afternoon, and I think she raises a good point.

On the other hand, I think that most incoming e-mails we've received on "pink slime" in the last two days have the NSLP purchasing program in mind, even if they don't reference it specifically, given the similar tone in each and the timing after the ABC news story ran on Wednesday.

Martha or Mary K, feel free to chime in with any further thoughts.

Thanks,

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Please pass on to your group.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OPACE/Managers; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** "Pink Slime" inquiries

Colleagues,

I know there have a number of calls from the public concerned about "pink slime." At this time, messaging comes from USDA OC since this is more than just a FSIS issue.

The only authorized statement you can give anyone who calls is below:

"All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe."

Most of it has centered around the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) announcing a purchase of the product (constituting about 3% (7,000,000 pounds) of their total beef purchases for the year) for the National School Lunch Program. The link is to a story that ran on ABC News on Wednesday night.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

There is also an online petition at change.org asking Sec. Vilsack and others associate with the school lunch program to stop purchasing the product, and it has gathered more than 11,000 signatures in about 3 days.

If you can provide an estimate of how many contacts from the public you have received, and if it is trending up or down, I'll be sure to make sure OC is kept informed. Sorry I don't have more you can use.

Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*



Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:36:16 AM

---

Please ignore my last e-mail—just saw this one..

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Every question is worded differently and Brian's answer is very general...not sure if I can use it in all situations. ☹

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Can we use Brian Mabry's material?

Diane, should (b) (6) translate what Brian sent earlier to Spanish and use that information?

It could be used for both chat and webmails (Spanish)

(b) (6)

---

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:57 PM  
**To:** Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Please advice on how to proceed. Should I answer the emails or ask them to email back in English?

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:11:03 PM

---

Not sure what else to recommend (b) (6)

Other than the very few points we've been given -- i.e. translating what we have

--e.g. not safety, rather quality; USDA had previously approved ammoniated beef process (though referred to as 'pink slime');

Petitions have been placed by the thousands..etc., as cited below

Diane, please comment if you'd like..

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

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Tel: (b) (6)

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**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Every question is worded differently and Brian's answer is very general...not sure if I can use it in all situations. ☹

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:37:22 PM

---

There was no fragment in the release, and therefore the revised draft response should not have contained one either. I don't see a fragment in the draft (b) (6) sent forward.

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

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---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries

(b) (6)

Please communicate to the writers that the press release/department language has to be modified appropriately. In other words, we can't just copy and paste. For instance, we are told to use the below statement, which is a fragment. The correction should be "USDA ensures **the** safety of the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and processed egg products." We also have to spell out USDA, and FSIS and use as acronyms when repeating.

"USDA ensures that safety of the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and processed egg products." Also, refer to the highlighted section for the paragraph starting with, "All USDA ground beef purchases", which I've changed a couple of times.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

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---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" inquiries

Mary (b) (6)

Please note the corrections that were made to your draft and update for future reference.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

<< File: Ross-press release Pink Slime21.docx >>

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" inquiries

I'm thinking all letters on this subject since Brian mentions "Most has centered around the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) announcing a purchase of the product (constituting about 3% (7,000,000 pounds) of their total beef purchases for the year) for the National School Lunch Program." Since he mentioned "most" of the messaging..." to me, implies beyond NSLP

Can you follow up with Brian for clarity.

Thank you.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" labeling policy  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:06:31 AM

---

I think the ammoniated process is considered a processing aid and would not need to be on the label.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" labeling policy

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

(b) (6), EIAO

Enforcement, Investigations, and Analysis Officer

USDA, FSIS, OFO

Albany District 65-09

300 Pearl Street, Suite 100

Buffalo, NY 14202

800.772.7033 ext. (b) (6)

*Privileged Communications: This transmission (and/or the documents accompanying it) may contain confidential information belonging to the sender. The information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named in the distribution. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify us by telephone to arrange for the return of the documents.*



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" labeling policy  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:33:23 AM

---

Oh god, I sent that too! Jesus, it has been a long day

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:32 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: "Pink Slime" labeling policy

Ha.. I was wondering why I also received the 03C tool as well. No worries..

Best regards,

(b) (6)  
Enforcement Investigation & Analysis Officer  
USDA/FSIS - Denver District Office

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 10:26 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" labeling policy

Lol sorry, I meant to send it to another witte

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:24 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime" labeling policy

Thanks!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 8:24 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" labeling policy

FYI: Go team!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:43 AM  
**To:** FSIS - FO/DO65/Enforcement Investigation & Analysis Officers  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "Pink Slime" labeling policy

Good morning all,

In case you get inquiries regarding the “Pink Slime” story on NBC, here’s what I found in the Food Standards and Labeling Policy Handbook. There is also a helpful chart on page 129 of the Handbook.

**“ALL or 100 PERCENT BEEF (Patty Mix)”:**

Beef patty mix may be labeled —all,” —pure,” or —100 percent beef,” when the only added ingredients are partially defatted chopped beef or finely textured beef. An ingredients statement would be required on bulk packed product but not retail packages. —All,” —Pure,” or —100 percent,” may not be used if partially defatted beef fatty tissue (PDBFT), is used or mechanically separated species (MSS), are used.

**PARTIALLY DEFATTED (BEEF OR PORK) FATTY TISSUE:**

These are byproducts produced from fatty trimmings containing less than 12 percent lean meat. These ingredients may be used in meat products in which byproducts are acceptable. Products include nonspecific loaves, beef patties, frankfurters with byproducts, bologna with variety meats, imitation sausage, potted meat food product, sauces, or gravies. May be used in excess of the amounts of meat necessary to satisfy the standard for only the products listed in the Policy Book. However, in this situation, the PDCB or PDCCP must always be declared in the ingredients statement.

See: 9 CFR 319.15(e) 9 CFR 319.29(a)

**PARTIALLY DEFATTED CHOPPED (Beef or Pork) (PDCB, PDCCP):**

1. Partially Defatted Chopped Beef is not permitted in hamburger, ground or chopped beef. The School Lunch Program requires that when PDCB is used in products like taco mix, which later may be used in preparing other products (e.g., tacos or patties), the PDCB or PDCCP must always be declared in the ingredients statement on the labeling of the taco mix. All Beef or 100 percent Beef is acceptable as product name.
2. Partially Defatted Chopped may be used in excess of meat necessary to satisfy the standards on only the products listed in the Policy Book. However, in this situation, the PDCCP must always be declared in the ingredients statement.

See: MPI Manual 18.55

**PARTIALLY DEFATTED COOKED (Beef or Pork) FATTY TISSUE:**

This product may be used as an ingredient in: Beef patties (cooked and uncooked), Potted meat food product, Sauces, Gravies, Imitation sausage, and Nonspecific loaves. No limit on quantity is made. It is believed to be self-limiting.

**(b) (6)**, DVM

[REDACTED] bany District Office

[REDACTED] Specialist [REDACTED]

(b) (6)

FAX 516-452-3118

**From:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" question  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:38:03 AM

---

The briefing paper would help greatly for the NAMP meeting.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (202) 368-5457 -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:37 AM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" question

Ok-I'll summarize the issues (or perhaps catch you at one of the meetings we have together).

The Q on NAMP/RCC meeting is what information/material do you and AI need for this discussion?  
Shannon can provide a briefing paper that will have the most up-to-date issues/progress/concerns.

(b) (6)  
International Policy Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
FAX: 202.720.4929

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" question

I am fully booked today until 3:30.

- Not sure if a press statement will be made on pink slime. The Department has several meetings scheduled on this today.
- What are the other issues (from below)?
- I am at the NAMP conference and on the agenda with (b) (6) (CFIA) on Friday. Al Almanza also is at the conference.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA

Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250

Main Office -- (202) 205-0495

Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089

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Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:14 AM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "pink slime" question  
**Importance:** High

FAS is asking whether we are responding to this article (and if not, do you think we need to provide anything for use with the Europeans?)

I also have several things I need to discuss with you, if you have time. I can either call or drop by. I am in the office today and first meeting is at 9 am.

1. Canada RTE meeting//letter
2. FRN Foreign Audits (discussion with Phil/Ronald yesterday)
3. Singapore (Anti-microbial Treatments and OIA//OPPD roles and responsibilities)
4. Imported Shell Eggs for Breaking (request from Canada)
5. NAMP//RCC meeting March 16 ? (NAMP, NMA, AMI, MICA, Canada Beef, CFIA, and AMS)
6. Request to speak at NANCA annual meeting (Barbara Negron's requesting)

The North American Natural Casing Association will be holding its annual meeting on Friday April 20, 2012 at the Water Club in New York City. We would like to have a guest speaker from FSIS to come and speak with us regarding the subject of switching from FDA to USDA as the competent authority for regulatory purposes without being subject to the Meat Act.

**(b) (6)**

International Policy Division

Office of Policy and Program Development

Food Safety and Inspection Service

Phone: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

FAX: 202.720.4929

---

**From:** (b) (6) (USEU) [mailto:(b) (6)@fas.usda.gov]

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:10 AM

**To:** (b) (6) FAS; (b) (6)

**Cc:** (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)

**FAS:** (b) (6) FAS

**Subject:** "pink slime" question

**Importance:** High

Dear (b) (6) and (b) (6)

Has FDA or FSIS put out a press release responding to this article? I'd like to know what USDA says about this now. As you know, we're having trouble getting even lactic acid approved as a pathogen reduction treatment here in Europe. We're also not allowed to export hormone treated beef here. This not so scientific or technical reference to this beef filler is detrimental. What's the reality today?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

<http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-slime-8221-beef-180500764.html>

According to [TheDaily.com](#), the term "pink slime" was coined by microbiologist Gerald Zirnstein, formerly of the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service. He first saw it being mixed into burger meat when he was touring a Beef Products Inc (BPI) facility in 2002 after an outbreak of salmonella. "Scientists in D.C. were pressured to approve this stuff with minimal safety approval," Zirnstein told The Daily.

"Pink slime," which is officially called "Lean Beef Trimmings," is banned for human consumption in the United Kingdom. It is commonly used in dog and chicken food. Celebrity chef and safe food advocate Jamie Oliver featured the substance and called for its ban on the April 12, 2011 episode of [Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution](#), which may have influenced McDonald's to stop using beef patties containing the filler.

Reportedly, Zirnstein and his colleague Carl Custer studied the substance and classified it as a "high risk product." Custer, who worked at the Food Safety Inspection service for 35 years, says, "We looked at the product and we objected to it because it used connective tissues instead of muscle. It was simply not nutritionally equivalent [to ground beef]. My main objection was that it was not meat."

Another issue is the ammonium hydroxide, a chemical that is used to kill pathogens such as [E. coli](#). The [FDA considers it safe for human consumption](#) but a 2009 expose by the [New York Times](#) questioned its safety and efficacy. Some food advocates are asking for meat containing "pink slime" to be labeled. It's used in about 70% of ground beef in the US. "We don't know which districts are receiving what meat, and this meat isn't labeled to show pink slime. They don't have to under federal law," Bettina Siegal, a writer and mother of two who created [TheLunchTray.com](#) told [NBC](#). Siegel has started [a petition](#) to demand the USDA stop using the product in the National School Lunch Program.

(b) (6)

Senior Agriculture Attachés  
FAS/USDA  
U.S. Mission to the European Union  
Brussels, Belgium

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" question  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:41:40 AM

---

Essentially none-with Lenny leaving, all of his projects have been divided among staff and the other priorities within the division (e.g. primarily PHIS), has kept us from progressing this issue.

I'll decline the meeting-but I am sure she will reach out to you.

(b) (6)  
International Policy Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
FAX: 202.720.4929

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:36 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" question

On the issue of attending the Casings meeting, I don't think FSIS should accept the invitation unless IPD has made progress on developing the casing policy. What is the status?

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
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**Importance:** High

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(b) (6)

International Policy Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
FAX: 202.720.4929

---

**From:** (b) (6) (USEU) [mailto:(b) (6)@fas.usda.gov]

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:10 AM

**To:** (b) (6) FAS; (b) (6)

**Cc:** (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)

FAS; (b) (6) FAS

**Subject:** "pink slime" question

**Importance:** High

Dear (b) (6) and (b) (6)

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Thanks,

(b) (6)

<http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-slime-8221-beef-180500764.html>



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" question  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:57:46 PM

---

I just saw the ABC video and (b) (6) and (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:41 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" question

Understood....I think this issue will continue for awhile. Gerald and Carl are certainly getting some attention!

(b) (6)  
International Policy Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
FAX: 202.720.4929

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:39 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" question

I have sent an email but given the time difference we may not get anything soon.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:18 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" question

Thanks. I think they are looking for an immediate response-so it is worth a try. If you don't mind- that would be great.

(b) (6)  
International Policy Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
FAX: 202.720.4929

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:12 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" question

(b) (6)

Don't know whether beef trimmings are banned in the EU ( specifically UK) but could send an email to FAS office in the UK and ask them. Let me know if you want us to reach out to the FAS office.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: "pink slime" question  
**Importance:** High

FYI-when I raised the question this morning, we had not put anything out officially, though Dan E indicated there were several meetings scheduled at the Department level.

I just had a call from AMS ((b) (6)) whether "pink slime" (ammonium hydroxide-treated ground connective tissue and meat scraps) is banned in Europe and an e-mail from Dan asking whether Europe (specifically UK) restricts consumption of beef trimmings.

According to the article beef trimmings are banned for human consumption in the UK, is that true. And I would appreciate your input on the decision memo when you have a chance.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:10 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** LA Times Story

Posted 20 minutes ago

'This is also in their Hot Topics header on each web page under the heading Pink Slime

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-pink-slime-20120309,0,1330346.story>

If any of you have answers, please respond to Dan E ASAP. If you are getting calls-be alert to the media attention this has.

Thanks.

(b) (6)

International Policy Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
FAX: 202.720.4929

---

**From:** (b) (6) (USEU) [mailto:(b) (6)@fas.usda.gov]

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:10 AM

**To:** (b) (6) FAS; (b) (6)

**Cc:** (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)

FAS; (b) (6) FAS

**Subject:** "pink slime" question

**Importance:** High

Dear (b) (6) and (b) (6)

Has FDA or FSIS put out a press release responding to this article? I'd like to know what USDA says about this now. As you know, we're having trouble getting even lactic acid approved as a pathogen reduction treatment here in Europe. We're also not allowed to export hormone treated beef here. This not so scientific or technical reference to this beef filler is detrimental. What's the reality today?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

<http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-slime-8221-beef-180500764.html>

According to [TheDaily.com](http://TheDaily.com), the term "pink slime" was coined by microbiologist Gerald Zirnstein, formerly of the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service. He first saw it being mixed into burger meat when he was touring a Beef Products Inc (BPI) facility in 2002 after an outbreak of salmonella. "Scientists in D.C. were pressured to approve this stuff with minimal safety approval," Zirnstein told The Daily.

"Pink slime," which is officially called "Lean Beef Trimmings," is banned for human consumption in the United Kingdom. It is commonly used in dog and chicken food. Celebrity chef and safe food advocate Jamie Oliver featured the substance and called for its ban on the April 12, 2011 episode of [Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution](http://Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution), which may have influenced McDonald's to stop using beef patties containing the filler.

Reportedly, Zirnstein and his colleague Carl Custer studied the substance and classified it as a "high risk product." Custer, who worked at the Food Safety Inspection service for 35 years, says, "We looked at the product and we objected to it because it used connective tissues instead of muscle. It was simply not nutritionally equivalent [to ground beef]. My main objection was that it was not meat."

Another issue is the ammonium hydroxide, a chemical that is used to kill pathogens such as

[E. coli](#). The [FDA considers it safe for human consumption](#) but a 2009 expose by the [New York Times](#) questioned its safety and efficacy. Some food advocates are asking for meat containing "pink slime" to be labeled. It's used in about 70% of ground beef in the US. "We don't know which districts are receiving what meat, and this meat isn't labeled to show pink slime. They don't have to under federal law," Bettina Siegal, a writer and mother of two who created [TheLunchTray.com](#) told [NBC](#). Siegel has started [a petition](#) to demand the USDA stop using the product in the National School Lunch Program.

(b) (6)

Senior Agriculture Attachés

FAS/USDA

U.S. Mission to the European Union

Brussels, Belgium

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** [Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#); [Ronholm, Brian - OSEC](#); [Ramos, Adela - OSEC](#); [Naessens, Katie - OSEC](#)  
**Subject:** Re: "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:09:22 AM

---

Yes- we watched it last night. Coincidence that it runs the night before my hearing? I think not.

---

**From:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 08:08 AM  
**To:** Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Naessens, Katie - OSEC; Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC  
**Subject:** "Pink Slime"

Sorry to bug. I just want to make sure you knew about the ABC News "pink slime" story last night:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

There's nothing really new in it, and I think you're all set for any response on this issue.

Christopher Gould

Congressional & Public Affairs Office

USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service

202-690-4546 (desk)

202-365-0186 (cell)

202-720-5704 (fax)

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often   **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature   **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

From: (b) (6) FSIS  
To: (b) (6) @jbssa.com; (b) (6) @jbssa.com  
Cc: (b) (6) FSIS  
Subject: Re: "Pink Slime"  
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:09:22 PM

---

1. <http://www.meatpoultry.com/Writers/Bryan%20Salvage/Assassinating%20effective%20technology.aspx>
2. [http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions\\_and\\_Answers\\_about\\_Ammonium\\_Hydroxide\\_Use\\_in\\_Food\\_Production](http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions_and_Answers_about_Ammonium_Hydroxide_Use_in_Food_Production)
3. <http://www.meatpoultry.com/News/News%20Home/Business/2012/3/BPI%20suspends%20operations%20at%20three%20plants.aspx>
4. <http://beefisbeef.com/2012/03/15/top-7-myths-of-pink-slime/>

I got some of the information about the term call "Pink Slime" that we use in the past. Very good info so you guys can explain to people who think "Pink Slime" is totally bad. Enjoy you reading.

(b) (6) . *CS?*

*C/o JBS-Hyrum, Est. 628*

*410 North 200 West*

*Hyrum, Utah 84319*

*Tel: 435-245-6456 Ext. (b) (6)*

*Cell: (b) (6)*

*Fax: 435-245-0459*

*Salt Lake City Circuit / Denver District*

*Success is the sum of small efforts,*

*repeated day in and day out. - Robert Collier.*

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:07:59 AM

---

Why can't the plant just send a statement that no ground beef shipped from this est contains PINK SLIME or any other ingredient. They could dress it up a little better than I need. It would be similar to a letter of guarantee or COA something in that vein. I would not write any statement for the plant attesting to any kind of ingredient inclusion or exclusion!! Just my thoughts.

---

**From:** (b) (6) FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:59 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) I (DO65) -  
(b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fw: "Pink Slime"

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 06:39 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "Pink Slime"

Here's what I found in the Food Standards and Labeling Policy Handbook. The firm could certainly share with their customers what the "all", "pure" or "100 percent beef" mean. There is also a helpful chart on page 129 of the Handbook.

**"ALL or 100 PERCENT BEEF (Patty Mix)":**

Beef patty mix may be labeled —all,“ —pure,“ or —100 percent beef,“ when the only added ingredients are partially defatted chopped beef or finely textured beef. An ingredients statement would be required on bulk packed product but not retail packages. —All,“ —Pure,“ or —100 percent,“ may not be used if partially defatted beef fatty tissue (PDBFT), is used or mechanically separated species (MSS), are used.

**PARTIALLY DEFATTED (BEEF OR PORK) FATTY TISSUE:**

These are byproducts produced from fatty trimmings containing less than 12 percent lean meat. These ingredients may be used in meat products in which byproducts are acceptable. Products include nonspecific loaves, beef patties, frankfurters with byproducts, bologna with variety meats, imitation sausage, potted meat food product, sauces, or gravies. May be used in excess of the amounts of meat necessary to satisfy the standard for only the products listed in the Policy Book. However, in this situation, the PDCB or PDCP must always be declared in the ingredients statement.

See: 9 CFR 319.15(e) 9 CFR 319.29(a)

**PARTIALLY DEFATTED CHOPPED (Beef or Pork) (PDCB, PDCP):**

1. Partially Defatted Chopped Beef is not permitted in hamburger, ground or chopped beef. The School Lunch Program requires that when PDCB is used in products like taco mix, which later may be used in preparing other products (e.g., tacos or patties), the PDCB or PDCP must always be declared in the ingredients statement on the labeling of the taco mix. All Beef or 100 percent Beef is acceptable as product name.
2. Partially Defatted Chopped may be used in excess of meat necessary to satisfy the standards on only the products listed in the Policy Book. However, in this situation, the PDCP must always be declared in the ingredients statement.

See: MPI Manual 18.55

**PARTIALLY DEFATTED COOKED (Beef or Pork) FATTY TISSUE:**

This product may be used as an ingredient in: Beef patties (cooked and uncooked), Potted meat food product, Sauces, Gravies, Imitation sausage, and Nonspecific loaves. No limit on quantity is made. It is believed to be self-limiting.

(b) (6), DVM

USDA/FSIS Albany District Office

Albany District Case Specialist

(b) (6)

FAX 518-452-3118

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:42 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Thurston Foods

After the ABC News story on pink slime last week, I suspect we may get a few inquiries like this from plants that want to assure their customers that they do not use any product that contains it. Am I correct in stating that the plant would have to issue their own statement, or is there something in writing that the USDA could provide?

In case you're not familiar with it, I will forward you the link.

---





**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:12:32 AM

---

I really hope you are doing well. I have taken a patrol by my house, so I will be off the road for a couple of years. I really miss you!!!! (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:37 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

Amazing what they (FSIS management) can get away with, glad to hear that USDA/FSIS scientist blew the whistle on this one!

It's slow, please wait for it to load, ok.

<< File: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm  
>>

V/R,

(b) (6)

Import Inspector

USDA, FSIS

Office of International Affairs, IID



(b) (6)



(956) 727-4502



(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >> *Please consider the environment before printing this email*

From: (b) (6) @dshs.state.tx.us  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime'  
Date: Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:32:59 PM

---

(b) (6)

All the reports call it Pink Slime but it is actually called Lean Finely Textured Beef.

Checkout FSIS Directive 7120. Revision 7 dated 7/7/11.

Bottom of page 7 you will find this -

SUBSTANCE	PRODUCT	AMOUNT	REFERENCE	LABELING REQUIREMENTS
Anhydrous ammonia	<b>Lean finely textured beef</b> which is subsequently quick chilled to 28 degrees Fahrenheit and mechanically "stressed"	In accordance with current industry standards of good manufacturing practice	Acceptability determination	None under the accepted conditions of use (1)

What the heck is mechanically "stressed"?

Later!

■

-----Original Message-----

From: email@addthis.com [mailto:email@addthis.com] On Behalf Of (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 7:12 AM  
To: (b) (6) DSHS)  
Subject: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime'

I have never heard of Pink Slime. Please educate me on this.

[http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/#.T1iwMkDQ0\\_s.email](http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/#.T1iwMkDQ0_s.email)

---

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime'  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:06:49 PM

---

Yum....

(b) (6)  
Frontline Supervisor  
Indianapolis, IN  
317-730-1162  
(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime'

(b) (6)  
FLS  
DeKalb Circuit 50-05  
BBY (b) (6)

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 03:42 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime'

(b) (6)  
Relief Circuit 50-05

-----Original Message-----

**From:** email@addthis.com [<mailto:email@addthis.com>] On Behalf Of (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:39 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime'

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/#.T1h-Tz2EnMY.email>

---

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:44:16 PM

---

Thanks (b) (6) I was talking to Doc earlier and he said there are places that do that.....What is this world coming too!!!!

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector CSI-IIC

Washington, MO

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

Your right, this is a first for me to "never heard of it or saw it"

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

Hi (b) (6) Hi (b) (6) I was a meat market manager for many years with Safeway Inc. out west and I have never seen these pink blocks. I did all the ordering for our boxed beef and if you did order beef trimmings which I did not, I have seen the stuff "beef trimmings" and it looked nothing like what they describe. Let`s say I had 93% lean ground beef chubs, but I was out of 83% ground beef but needed some in the case. As I cut my beef steaks, or whatever I needed to put in my cases, I would save what I trimmed off of these cuts and add it to the 93% ground beef chubs as I ground it to lean the beef to make 83% ground beef.....I have never seen in my 12 yrs as a meat cutter these blocks of pink slime. Now for me, I would never buy ground beef or any beef from wall mart or any other store that doesn't have a meat cutter, their stuff just seems a little too pretty. I guess what I'm trying to say is I never met a meat cutter that didn't care about what he or she put in their cases, especially the older wiser ones!!!!!!

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector CSI-IIC

Washington, MO

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:37 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

Amazing what they (FSIS management) can get away with, glad to hear that USDA/FSIS scientist blew the whistle on this one!

It's slow, please wait for it to load, ok.

<< File: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm  
>>

V/R,

(b) (6)

Import Inspector

USDA, FSIS

Office of International Affairs, IID



(b) (6)



(956) 727-4502



(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >> *Please consider the environment before printing this email*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 7202522  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:08:37 AM

---

In the past, we put a letter in and if it was not marked "standard language," but had a person's name as providing information, it was understood that it was a new response and not just standard language.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 7202522

Okay. We should add this type of distinction to ECM notes, which I will add at this time and move forward.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:57 AM  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 7202522

I put Dan in the workflow because it covers a new issue (can it be used in ground chuck, etc.) and I have two other letters asking the same thing. I thought he would like to clear the additional information. Thanks.



(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:55 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** 7202522

Hi (b) (6)

The workflow shows that after my clearance, this is going to OPPD to clear and then back to you, but believe we already have (b) (6) signature approval on pink slime letters. If that is correct, please work with (b) (6) to update the workflow.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director

ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building

Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250

Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:22:54 PM

---

I'm checking a couple of other options. At the end of the day it will be a straightforward response, based largely on language we already have cleared.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:22 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King

Don't make yourself crazy. We have to have answered every variation of pink slime by now. I can lift.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW. • Room 1166 • Washington D.C. 20250  
(b) (6) (W) • (202) 720-7609 (F) • (b) (6) (C)  
e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe. **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: 7203454 - King  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:29:06 PM

---

Hm. Thank you.....

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 01:01 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: 7203454 - King

Thanks – just fyi: this was sent with an old tagline.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW. • Room 1166 • Washington D.C. 20250  
(b) (6) (W) • (202) 720-7609 (F) • (b) (6) (C)  
e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe. **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King  
**Importance:** High

This one (7196445) was signed on the 23<sup>rd</sup>:

<<Jan Smith[1].doc>>

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King



(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW. • Room 1166 • Washington D.C. 20250  
(b) (6) (W) • (202) 720-7609 (F) • (b) (6) (C)  
e-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe. **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King

Ok – thanks immensely. I'll forward you the latest on LFTB.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King

Don't worry – just assign and I'll handle. You don't have to start as I'm sure you also have a few things on your plate. I would appreciate knowing the control numbers of the good pink slime letters, however. That would be super.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
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(b) (6) (W) • (202) 720-7609 (F) • (b) (6) (C)  
e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe. **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:25 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 7203454 - King

Ok no dice on the other options. How about this: I'll get the draft started, and into clearance – would you take in on midstream? Let me know if you're comfortable with that.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:22 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: A question on Pink Slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:02:15 AM

---

I believe our group, Standardization Division, would be the one to take a first look at this type of process. We have done so with other technologies/ingredients. We just "officially" took over the technical component of the school lunch purchase effort for red meat.

I would contact Marty O'Connor directly with this request. Thanks.

(b) (6), Ph.D.  
International Marketing Specialist  
Standardization Division, USDA  
(b) (6)

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** FW: A question on Pink Slime

(b) (6)

Do you have a point of contact at school lunch? See e-mail below.

Jeff

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)@intralytix.com'  
**Subject:** Re: A question on Pink Slime

(b) (6)

RIMD is the Risk, Innovations, and Management Division. Dr. Bill Shaw is the director. They are the staff that implements the joint FDA and FSIS ingredient approval process for the agency. The attached letter from FDA and FSIS already appear to support the ecoshield may be used as antimicrobial agent to treat meat parts prior to grinding. You may confirm by contacting (b) (6) at (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

I can provide a contact at AMS today.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director

Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** John Woloszyn [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@intralytix.com](mailto:(b) (6)@intralytix.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 05:55 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: A question on Pink Slime

Thanks Jeff. We have mastered the science in this area, but not yet mastered all of the acronyms. What is RIMD? And, do you have Pat Burke's e-mail address and a contact at AMS.

I was not thinking of treating FTB, although that is certainly possible. Rather, bacteriophage (EcoShield) can be applied directly on to red meat parts and trim prior to grinding as a very effective way to substantially reduce or eliminate E. coli O157:H7. I know there is significant concern by the processors of introducing E. coli O157:H7 in hamburger meat. Use of EcoShield would be another tool to assure the safety of ground red meat products.

Does this require a separate approval process in addition to the FDA's existing FCN, and the FSIS's acknowledgement that EcoShield, when applied as provided under the FCN, constitutes a processing aid?

Best,  
John Woloszyn

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS [<mailto:Jeff.Canavan@fsis.usda.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thu 3/22/2012 4:03 PM  
**To:** John Woloszyn  
**Subject:** Re: A question on Pink Slime

(b) (6)

Sounds like Dave is enjoying retirement, that is good, we miss him though.

I can send you a school lunch contact at AMS this evening. However, I think you will want to work through the current ingredient approval process with RIMD. This is because "pink slime" refers to finely textured beef (FTB). FTB has been in production since 1991, not all FTB is treated with ammonia which was not approved until 2001. The issue now in question is the use of FTB in general, especially in school lunch. AMS recently announced that next year schools will have the option of beef with or without FTB. To get bacteriophage approved to treat FTB would require working with RIMD to get approved for that product. Pat Burke is a point of contact in RIMD.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** John Woloszyn [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@intralytix.com](mailto:(b) (6)@intralytix.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:19 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: A question on Pink Slime

**From:** [Rogers, James - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ABC & Pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:54:21 AM

---

And my kids and I love hamburgers!

Sheesh!

James E. Rogers, Ph.D.  
Branch Chief/National Baselines Studies Director  
Microbiological Analysis and Data Branch  
Microbiology Division  
Office of Public Health Science  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service

Mailing Address

Stop 3777, PP 3, # 9-226  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Tel: 202-690-6537  
Blackberry: 202-329-2703  
Fax: 202-690-6364

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-----Original Message-----

From: Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:46 AM  
To: Rogers, James - FSIS  
Subject: FW: ABC & Pink slime

GZ and Carl Custer center stage

-----Original Message-----

From: Carl Custer [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@gmail.com](#)]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:41 PM  
To: (b) (6)

Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; (b) (6) FSIS  
Subject: ABC & Pink slime

Whoo doggie, me 'n GZ been on Tee Vee :^)  
30 minutes of interview reduced to 10 seconds of "Fame"  
<<http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/pink-slime-15873068>>

FWIW, in 1990, we called it Soy lent Pink. Ah but kids today, who remembers "Soy lent Green"

On Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 7:02 PM, Carl Custer (b) (6)@gmail.com> wrote:  
> Well, if you can catch today's ABC World news, I'm evidently on it



[REDACTED] food safety.

> They were supposed to tell me when . . . but didn't

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** [Rogers, James - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: ABC & Pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:17:14 PM

---

:-p!!

(b) (6)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Office of Environmental Justice  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2201A)  
Washington, D.C. 20460  
(202) 564-0736 (202) 564-1624 fax

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere (Eph 6:18 NLT)

From: "Rogers, James - FSIS" <James.Rogers@fsis.usda.gov>  
To: (b) (6) /DC/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 03/08/2012 12:00 PM  
Subject: Re: ABC & Pink slime

Ah veggies, lets see. E.coli, salmonella and veggies fertilized by passing wild animals!!!

Turkey, Salmonella, campylobacter, and hormones in their feed!!!!!!

James E. Rogers, Ph.D.  
Branch Chief  
Microbiological Analysis and Data Branch  
Microbiology Division  
Office of Public Health Science  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Tel: 202-690-6537  
Blackberry: 202-329-2703

----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@epamail.epa.gov]  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:52 AM  
To: Rogers, James - FSIS  
Subject: RE: ABC & Pink slime

thanks! i'll stick w veggie or turkey for now.

(b) (6)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Office of Environmental Justice  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2201A)  
Washington, D.C. 20460  
(b) (6) (202) 564-1624 fax

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere (Eph 6:18 NLT)

From: "Rogers, James - FSIS" <James.Rogers@fsis.usda.gov>  
To: (b) (6) /DC/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 03/08/2012 11:28 AM  
Subject: RE: ABC & Pink slime

Carl says Costco and Walmart should be good places to get hamburger.

Tell (b) (6) to hurry up with his determination if I can be added, or you will have to take me shopping!!!

James E. Rogers, Ph.D.  
Branch Chief/National Baselines Studies Director  
Microbiological Analysis and Data Branch  
Microbiology Division  
Office of Public Health Science  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service

Mailing Address

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-----Original Message-----

From: Rogers, James - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:00 AM  
To: (b) (6)  
Subject: FW: ABC & Pink slime

Watch the video. I used to work with Carl and Gerald was always mad at me because I took this job, which he wanted.

James E. Rogers, Ph.D.  
Branch Chief/National Baselines Studies Director  
Microbiological Analysis and Data Branch  
Microbiology Division  
Office of Public Health Science  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service

Mailing Address

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-----Original Message-----

From: Carl Custer [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:41 PM

To: (b) (6)

Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; (b) (6)

- FSIS

Subject: ABC & Pink slime

Whoo doggie, me 'n GZ been on Tee Vee :^)  
30 minutes of interview reduced to 10 seconds of "Fame"  
<<http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/pink-slime-15873068>>

FWIW, in 1990, we called it Soylent Pink. Ah but kids today, who remembers "Soylent Green"

On Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 7:02 PM, Carl Custer (b) (6)@gmail.com> wrote:

- > Well, if you can catch today's ABC World news, I'm evidently on it
- > blathering about food safety.
- > They were supposed to tell me when . . . but didn't

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#); [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#); [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Williams, Charles - FSIS](#); [Shaw, William - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 5:03:38 PM

---

Right. I imagine the percentage used is mainly set by the customer requirements and tends to limit the amount of product used.

Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:59 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

However, it wouldn't be very marketable if it has too much, right?

-----

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 03:57 PM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Jeff,

Thanks much. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:54 PM

**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Brian,

There is no limit on how much FTB or LFTB may be used in meat products.

Jeff

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:51 PM

**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

All,

The maximum allowable percentage of LFTB that may be formulated into single servings of the ground beef purchased for the NSLP is 15 percent, but does FSIS set a percentage limit or range limit on LFTB incorporated for what can be sold commercially?

MSNBC is inquiring and I couldn't find it in the CFR, but wanted to double-check my work.

Thanks all! Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**

*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891

tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460

[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)

[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:41 PM

**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Brian, in case you need additional information to help solidify distinctions about LFTB and other products that do not meet equivalent nutrient content expectations (e.g., the fat, protein, and PER), look at 9 CFR 319.15(e) for Partially Defatted Beef Fatty Tissue. This product starts with fatty material, is subjected to low temperature rendering (e.g., no greater than 120 degrees Fahrenheit), and must result in product that has a pinkish color and a fresh odor and appearance. This product cannot be used unlimited, such as LFTB. This product is a beef byproduct (also defined in 9 CFR 301.2) and is explicitly derived from product that is other than meat. It is processed similarly as LFTB but is not "meat".

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA

Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250

Main Office -- (202) 205-0495

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Fax -- (202) 720-2025

Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:25 PM

**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Subject:** Re: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Thanks! Saved some face for me there. Brian

Brian K. Mabry

Congressional and Media

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Please Note New Direct Dial

tel. 202.720.9891 | fax 202.690.0460

[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 03:23 PM

**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Brian,

Meat food product is defined in 9 CFR 301.2.

Jeff

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:20 PM

**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Last minute fact check – is it Section 303? Or am I looking at an old version of the CFR?

Thanks~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
**Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs**  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 1:13 PM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

OPACE – From the write-up, what you should conclude is that the added measures for nutrient content (see below) ensure that the product is a valuable source of quality protein in the diet for this meat food product that is incorporated into meat products. These requirements are in addition to the steps taken to ensure that the product is microbiologically safe.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (202) 368-5457 -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:42 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Dan,

Here is a summary paragraph

In the early 1990s, the meat industry began to apply low processing temperatures, e.g., 107° F, to boneless beef trimmings in order to further reduce the fat content. Because the temperature does not exceed 107° F, the proteins are not denatured during the process. Therefore, the product does not appear to have been heat treated and has similar performance characteristics as "meat." Thus, the Agency determined that it needed to develop a product category to distinguish this product from other low temperature rendered products such as Partially Defatted Chopped Beef (PDCB). In 1991, FSIS developed a policy for this product which was identified as finely textured beef (FTB) and lean finely textured beef (LFTB). The policy requires that the product: (1) cannot exceed 30 percent fat (unless it is called "lean" whereby it cannot exceed 10% fat); (2) must contain a minimum of 14 percent protein, and (3) must have a protein efficiency ratio (PER), a measure of protein quality, of 2.5. These criteria were established to ensure that FTB and LFTB were compositionally similar to beef. FTB and LFTB may be declared as "beef" in the ingredients statement of standardized and non-standardized products in which it is used as an ingredient.



Jeff  
Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
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---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:15 PM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Ros/Jeff, please provide a statement that summarizes the nutrient and protein quality expectations for this product.

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**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS  
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We've already provided information on why FSIS allows the ammonium hydroxide treatment.

Anything else we can add?

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**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:28 AM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Rachel has a voicemail messages from both Dirk and me so I thought I would try to bring

everyone together even though folks are spread out between hearings and other events right now.

Last night, ABC news ran a piece on LFTB – the link is below in case you missed it:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

**As a follow up, OC got a note from ABC today asking, in part: what's the justification for this being classified as food? And is that a classification that's under review?**

Would CPAO be correct to just refer to the CFR for the definition of meat, and look at LFTB as an enhanced form of Mechanically Recovered meat? The previous questions we have dealt with on LFTB seemed to mostly focus on the Ammonium hydroxide treatment, not on the process of the meat itself.

I just wanted to make sure I didn't go down the wrong path. Thanks for any guidance or a SME to talk with. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
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Room 1175-South Building

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tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Williams, Charles - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Shaw, William - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:17:48 AM

---

LFTB is clearly within the scope of the "meat food product" definition in part 303. The TV piece raises the question whether use of LFTB in ground beef means that ground beef that contains it should be labeled differently. Then there are the more inflammatory or adolescent questions they seem to be asking in this follow-up, like, "is this food?"

And, yes, FSIS inspects it, etc.

---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:49 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS  
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**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Shaw, William - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:58:12 AM  
**Importance:** High

---

Bill,

Bucky who is detailing with us has actually been to the BPI plant. Carrie Leathers may be the best historian of all. I seem to remember her being an Inspector in the plant and evaluating product when LFTB was first made as a meat food product and accepted for use.

Jeff

---

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**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:17 AM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

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Brian, Have you seen the process before? Do you think it would be helpful for us to give a food science primer on the process to the communication folks?

*William K. Shaw, Jr. Phd.*

Director, Risk, Innovations, and Management Division  
USDA/FSIS/OPPD  
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Washington, DC 20250

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Fax (202) 245-4790

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**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:49 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

I'm not clear exactly what the question is.

**From:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 1:01:11 PM

---

Excellent!

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:44 PM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Just did, Had this from the files. Actually a 610 review (b) (6) and I worked on around 2002. I knew it would come in handy.

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:42 PM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Did you already respond?

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:15 AM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
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**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 09:48 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Shaw, William - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:14:17 PM

---

Excellent. My only fear is they ask for *original* organoleptic data or something similar from 1991. I don't think we have any. We do have more recent organoleptic and residue data specific to BPI in our FTB and ammonia FOIA packet. That data is from 2004 I think.

Jeff

---

**From:** Shaw, William - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:05 PM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Sounds good. I have also been to the plant in Des Moines District and have seen the process too. I think we can provide them whatever they may need. I also got the info from the old BPI website. I'll forward it to you.

Bill

*William K. Shaw, Jr. Phd.*  
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**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:58 AM  
**To:** Shaw, William - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"  
**Importance:** High

Bill,

(b) (6) who is detailing with us has actually been to the BPI plant. (b) (6) may be the best historian of all. I seem to remember her being an Inspector in the plant and evaluating product when LFTB was first made as a meat food product and accepted for use.

Jeff

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**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot,

Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

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**Cc:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:14:12 PM

---

And here is what we have previously provided on use of ammonia:

In early 2001, BPI wrote a series of letters to USDA asking that it not be required to list ammonia on its label as an added ingredient. FSIS replied in May 2001 to an inquiry from BPI that the company did not have to list anhydrous ammonia in the ingredients statement on the label for treated product. FSIS concluded that anhydrous ammonia can be a processing aid when used in BPI's process.

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:55 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Brian,

- 1) Yes, I agree. LFTB fits the category of a meat food product definition.
- 2) The Agency did set requirements with regard to protein, fat, etc. to ensure that it was compositionally comparable to meat and would not negatively affect the essential characteristics of products in which it is used as an ingredient (e.g., ground beef). I am not sure how much detailed information we have in our files from when it was accepted for use; it was in 1991 over 20 years ago. LPDD can check.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
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**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:40 AM  
**To:** Shaw, William - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"



Thank you all.

I agree that some of the claims are inflammatory, and we are working with OC on this. What Dirk and I are seeking right now is two fold:

1) First, an immediate response to the ABC inquiry that we can provide to OC that is simply:

“This product is clearly within the scope of the “meat food product” definition in part 303 of the CFR.”

2) A follow-on strategy where we lay out how the agency arrived at the decision, ie, the studies or determinations that the product was safe, acceptable, ect.

At this point, we need to loop with OC and not get ahead of the Department, but Fox News has picked up the story as well, and we anticipate more inquiries as it goes along – why is it not labeled, how can you call this meat, questions about if it is as nutritious as “real” meat, ect.

We don’t want to spin you up unnecessarily, but will let you know that we will probably need to revisit this topic with y’all.

Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
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**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:49 AM

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**Subject:** ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

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**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#); [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Williams, Charles - FSIS](#); [Shaw, William - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:24:52 PM

---

Thanks! Saved some face for me there. Brian

Brian K. Mabry  
Congressional and Media  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
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tel. 202.720.9891 | fax 202.690.0460  
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**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 03:23 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Brian,

Meat food product is defined in 9 CFR 301.2.

Jeff

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:20 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Last minute fact check – is it Section 303? Or am I looking at an old version of the CFR?

Thanks~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
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**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 1:13 PM

**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

OPACE – From the write-up, what you should conclude is that the added measures for nutrient content (see below) ensure that the product is a valuable source of quality protein in the diet for this meat food product that is incorporated into meat products. These requirements are in addition to the steps taken to ensure that the product is microbiologically safe.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA

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Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

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**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Dan,

Here is a summary paragraph

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Jeff

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**From:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 6:52:13 AM  
**Attachments:** [AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12\(5\).docx](#)

---

(b) (6) Phil and I reviewed the draft and provided edits in the attachment. Although subtle, the use of LFTB is as a component and not an ingredient that requires labeling. However, the addition of the prune puree would be as an ingredient that would require labeling. Let us know if you need additional review or input.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

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BlackBerry -- (202) 368-5457 -- emergency only

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Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 5:02 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

Attached is the current that will go back into circulation tomorrow morning. Dan: I used some of your verbage below while I talked with (b) (6) in OGC. Thank you!!

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 4:14 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

Thanks (b) (6)

FYI, I'm not remembering how AMS defined LFTB in your purchase specification. However, it is important to note that the process to manufacture LFTB does not have to include the anhydrous ammonium treatment. LFTB is beef derived from low temperature rendering and centrifuging off excess fat -- with or without anhydrous ammonium treatment. There could be manufacturers of low temperature rendered beef other than BPI. Thus, if you are trying to be specific about the product that you want to limit in purchases, you might want to be more specific -- i.e., any low temperature rendered product or other product that appears to be "finely textured" (e.g., meat from advanced meat recovery or high pressure processing), as well as product subjected to anhydrous ammonium.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA

Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250

Main Office -- (202) 205-0495

Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089

BlackBerry -- (202) 368-5457 -- emergency only

Fax -- (202) 720-2025

Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:10 PM  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Cc:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

Phil:

I had your old email in my outlook. The attached is fyi. I will call in a second. We wanted to make sure you knew this was moving.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:09 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - FNS; Derfler, Philip -FSIS (Philip.Derfler@usda.gov); Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** FW: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

The attached Decision Memo went to our Agency's Controlled Correspondence office for delivery to the Administrator's Office for movement on from there.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

FYI:

**From:** [Kristina Butts](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Another question  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:36:12 PM

---

Thanks so much the latest story tonight made the claim that organic beef did not have pink slime. So just wanted to make sure I was not crazy =) thanks again!

-----Original Message-----

From: Blake, Carol - FSIS [<mailto:Carol.Blake@fsis.usda.gov>]  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:03 PM  
To: Kristina Butts; Almanza, Al - FSIS  
Subject: Re: Another question

Kristina - I checked in with Dan Engeljohn. He said that most all processing aids can be (and are) used on organic beef. Hope this is helpful.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884 NOTE NEW NUMBER  
Cell: (202) 557-4736

----- Original Message -----

From: Kristina Butts [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@beef.org](mailto:(b) (6)@beef.org)]  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 06:23 PM  
To: Almanza, Al - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Subject: Another question

So can organic beef use items approved by gras and still be organic?

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.





decided to allow school districts to stop using it. Some retail chains have pulled products containing it.

Read more: <http://www.gctelegram.com/news/BREAKING-NEWS--BPI-closing-3-26-12#ixzz1qFm2JmCe>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: any complaints?  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 4:30:14 PM

---

Sorry- thx!

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 4:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: any complaints?

No complaints. Just disgruntled "pink slime" folks.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 4:29 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** any complaints?

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/ FSES

Room 2L244-C

5601 Sunnyside Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6) 410-903-3988 Fax: 301-504-2092

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Ask a food safety question in Spanish: [PregunteleKaren.gov](http://PregunteleKaren.gov)

Siguenos por *Twitter*! [http://twitter.com/USDAFoodSafe\\_es](http://twitter.com/USDAFoodSafe_es)

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En\\_Espanol/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En_Espanol/index.asp)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Any Complaints?  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:49:16 PM

---

It wasn't too bad (b) (6) it was not easy to pick the best 2, that's the part that took the longest (reviewing them)

Not sure how you did it with calls and stuff

Thank you for your persistence, setting it up. It was worth it.

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Any Complaints?

Nope, have a great weekend and thanks for fitting the Lego judging into your schedule today!

(b) (6)

*Food Safety Specialist*

USDA/FSSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2-L248C, MS- 5269

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6)

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or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Any Complaints?

Have a good weekend,

No doubt you've had a tough day with those calls on pink slime today

Shutting the store down at 4 pm here..

Let me know if anything else is needed .

Thanks

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Any Complaints?

thanks

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:43 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Any Complaints?

I didn't have any (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:41 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Any Complaints?

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/F SIS/ FSES

Room 2L244-C

5601 Sunnyside Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6) 410-903-3988 Fax: 301-504-2092

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

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[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En\\_Espanol/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En_Espanol/index.asp)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: any inquiries on ammonia in beef or "pink slime" ??  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 2:52:07 PM

---

Thank you all for your prompt responses Tina, (b) (6) (b) (6) --

Looks like we had nothing – or barely anything --on the HL anyway

(other than the 1 (b) (6) mentioned, on AskKaren which she sent to ECIMS)

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 2:41 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: any inquiries on ammonia in beef or 'pink slime' ??

None today, so far

(b) (6)

*Food Safety Specialist*

USDA/F SIS Food Safety Education Staff

2-L248C, MS- 5269

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6)

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<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 2:33 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** any inquiries on ammonia in beef or 'pink slime' ??

Are you get many --or any -- inquiries on ammonia in beef or 'pink slime'?

Let me know,

Thank you

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Phone: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: any inquiries on ammonia in beef or "pink slime" ??  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 2:38:25 PM

---

Great –thanks (b) (6)

I have something related to ammonia and beef but never got any talking points on 'pink slime' or anything related to such

Good thing we're not getting an avalanche of these..

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 2:35 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: any inquiries on ammonia in beef or 'pink slime' ??

None so far today. No chats about them either.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: any inquiries on ammonia in beef or "pink slime" ??  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 2:34:44 PM

---

Yes, I remember

Thanks (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 2:34 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) -  
Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: any inquiries on ammonia in beef or 'pink slime' ??

Just 1 email in Ask Karen this morning which I forwarded to ECIMS.

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2L-248D

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 2:33 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned  
Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** any inquiries on ammonia in beef or 'pink slime' ??

Are you get many --or any -- inquiries on ammonia in beef or 'pink slime'?

Let me know,

Thank you

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Phone: (b) (6)

E-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: any inquiries on ammonia in beef or "pink slime" ??  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 4:20:44 PM

---

Good to know,

Sounds like we're not getting the avalanche we thought was coming..

Have a great weekend Marianne !

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 4:11 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: any inquiries on ammonia in beef or 'pink slime' ??

Hi (b) (6)

The FSIS mail box had one inquiry on Tuesday and Thursday.

None to the MPHotline mail box.

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

Food Safety Education Staff

Food Safety and Inspection Service

phone: (b) (6)

fax: (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 2:33 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** any inquiries on ammonia in beef or 'pink slime' ??

Are you get many –or any -- inquiries on ammonia in beef or 'pink slime?'

Let me know,

Thank you

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Phone: (b) (6)

E-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: any "pink slime" calls yesterday?  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 5:16:45 PM

---

Hi (b) (6)

I've gotten about 8 so far to all three mail boxes.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

Food Safety Education Staff

Food Safety and Inspection Service

phone: (b) (6)

fax: (b) (6)

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:29 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** any 'pink slime' calls yesterday?

---- (I got (b) (6) and (b) (6) numbers already from yesterday)

Israel: did you have any calls yesterday on 'pink slime?'

Marianne: are you getting lots of these in your webmails?

Thank you,

(b) (6)

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: AP story - apparently they now do taste tests and it is considered news  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 2:57:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

Like all the others...!

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 2:56 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: AP story - apparently they now do taste tests and it is considered news

Fair and balanced!

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 2:56 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: AP story - apparently they now do taste tests and it is considered news

"First, the unadulterated burger." -- Really?

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>



---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC

**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 2:51 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - OC; (b) (6) - OC; (b) (6) - OC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS

**Subject:** AP story - apparently they now do taste tests and it is considered news

## 'Pink Slime' Sounds Gross, but How Does it Taste?

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — All this angst over "pink slime" has made one thing clear: We don't always know what we're getting when we bite into a big juicy burger.

Which leaves unanswered some of the most basic questions in the debate over what the meat industry calls lean finely textured beef, a processed meat filler that experts say has found its way into much of the ground beef consumed in the United States.

But as a professional eater, I needed to know two things: What does this stuff do to the taste and texture of ground beef? And how can consumers know when they're eating it?

Neither answer came easily, the former because of the sheer volume of beef I needed to eat, the latter because of the rather opaque way ground beef is made.

For schools, that opacity began to clear Thursday, when the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that as of the fall the National School Lunch Program will allow districts to choose ground beef that does not contain the product. Previously, it was difficult for schools to know whether the beef they bought from the feds had it or not.

That's because pink slime — no matter what you call it or what you think of it — really is made from beef and therefore doesn't need to be listed as a separate ingredient.

But Thursday's announcement doesn't do much for the average consumer.

At the grocer, a steak is a steak, and it is nearly always labeled by the cut of beef it's from. There was a time when ground beef was similarly labeled and you knew at least roughly what part of the animal you were getting. And though some packages still indicate "ground chuck" or "ground sirloin," today most is labeled simply as "ground beef."

Most consumers don't care. They'd rather focus on another part of the label — the fat percentage. And producers don't care. It has made it easier for them to take a more amalgamated approach to ground beef, using whatever cuts they want or have without worrying about spelling it out.

Now introduce lean finely textured beef, and the meat picture is further muddled.

The product is made from bits of meat left over from other cuts. It's heated and spun to remove the fat, then compressed into blocks for mixing into conventional ground beef. Because it's so lean and inexpensive, producers often mix it into fattier meat to produce an overall leaner product.

That means two packages labeled "ground beef 80 percent lean" may look and sound the same but be composed of different meats. One could be unadulterated ground beef made from cuts of meat containing 20 percent fat. The other could be made from poorer quality — much fattier — meat but cut with and made leaner by pink slime, a term coined by a federal microbiologist grossed out by it and now widely used by critics and food activists.

How do you tell the difference? For the most part, you don't.

"You can't differentiate beef from beef," said Jeremy Russell, a spokesman for the National Meat Association,

which represents processors, suppliers and exporters. "Talking to your retailer would be the only way."

So that's what I did. But it got me only partial answers.

## THE FIELD RESEARCH

At grocer No. 1, the folks behind the butcher counter were able to show me one brand, a pricey "all-natural" ground beef that did not contain the meat filler. But for the many other and far less expensive varieties of ground beef? They had no way of knowing.

Grocer No. 2 presented the opposite problem. The workers there found one brand that definitely did have the pink stuff, but they couldn't say whether any others did or didn't.

And don't be fooled by the "all-natural" beef label at store No. 1. That term is unregulated, so it doesn't really mean anything. At another store, another brand of ground beef could be similarly labeled but still contain the meat filler.

But the term "organic" is regulated, and that provides a clue. If you can find it — and are willing to pay the price — ground beef labeled organic cannot contain lean finely textured beef.

Despite the odds, I had lucked out. Between the two grocers, I'd managed to identify two packages of 85 percent lean ground beef, one with pink slime and one without. Time to taste.

By label alone, it was clear we were talking different beef demographics. The pink slime-free product bragged that it was minimally processed and that the cows had been raised without antibiotics, growth hormones or animal byproducts in their food. Price — \$5.99 per pound. The pink slime version? Just a minimalist "compare and save." Price — \$3.09 per pound.

Outwardly, they seemed the same: They smelled the same, and they looked basically the same, though the pink slime sample was slightly lighter in color. Until you touched them. The all-natural sample was slightly fattier to touch. That seemed odd, since both products should have the same fat content.

## INTO THE MOUTH

For the taste test, I kept it simple and pure. I formed a half-pound of each ground beef into a thick burger patty, adding nothing to the meat. And though I prefer my burgers on the grill, I decided to fry these in a skillet because it's easier to control the cooking, ensuring both would be cooked to the same degree and under the same conditions.

I added nothing to the pan. Meat this fatty generally bleeds out a robust amount of grease, so I wasn't concerned with sticking. That was my second surprise. The pink slime patty released very little fat during cooking. The other patty gave off two or three times as much.

About 5 minutes per side, and I declared them medium-rare. After giving them a few minutes to rest, I seasoned them lightly with salt and pepper, then cut in.

First, the unadulterated burger. The aroma was luscious. The meat was juicy, tender and nicely seared. Where I'd cut, juices slowly dribbled out onto the plate, collecting in a pool. The taste was savory and meaty, with big beefy flavor. The chew had just the right texture, substantial but giving. Basically, everything you would want in a burger.

The pink slime burger also was perfectly seared and drew me in with an equally alluring aroma. But no juices collected on the plate. Or dribbled out. Or were apparent in the meat in really any way. The taste was — OK. I took another taste of the first burger, then back to the pink slime burger.

It was not bad. But nor was it good. It was flat. I added more salt. No. It was simply one-dimensional.

And then there was the texture. Unpleasantly chewy bits of what I can only describe as gristle, though they were not visible, seemed to stud the meat of the pink slime burger. The result was a mealy chew that, while not overtly unpleasant, didn't leave me wanting another bite.

Of course, I did take another bite. In the interest of good journalism, I ate both burgers entirely. And then I felt sick. I'm confident that has nothing to do with slime of any sort.

**Aaron Lavallee**

Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office Direct: 202.720.6959

Cell: (b) (6)

[aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov)

<http://www.usda.gov>

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**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: AP: Kroger, Stop & Shop join "pink slime" exodus  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:33:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

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The only person in the middle ground (cause all you find in the middle of the road is yellow stripes and dead skunks):

<http://blog.usfoodsafety.com/2012/03/22/lemon-juice-is-icky-too-be-honest-with-consumers-and-disclose-whats-in-any-food/>

## Lemon juice is icky too; be honest with consumers and disclose what's in any food

*Posted on March 22, 2012 by [foodsafeguru](#)*

by Doug Powell

“There’s an ick factor to almost all food.”

That was my short-take on the pink slime smearfest, which has now dragged retailers, along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, into the murky morass where public opinion intersects with scientific evidence.

This is nothing new.

Me, I find E. coli and salmonella in raw sprouts icky.

Other people find ammonium hydroxide, or pink slime, icky. People may soon discover they find citric acid icky because that’s what Cargill uses to yield finely textured beef and reduce the pathogen load.

It’s pink, it’s meat, it’s lean finely textured beef – LFTB yo – versus pink slime in public opinion, and processors, retailers and government spokethingies are acting like they’ve never encountered a food-related, or any risk-related issue where public opinion is different from scientific advice.

It’s theatre, like a Mike Daisey production.

Mike Hughlett of the Minneapolis Star Tribune writes today that Supervalu Inc., one of the nation’s largest grocery chains, will no longer sell hamburger containing an ammonia-treated beef filler dubbed “pink slime” by some food critics and a growing chorus of consumers.

The Eden Prairie-based company, which owns local supermarket leader Cub Foods, on Wednesday joined several fast-food chains and other major grocery operators in removing the controversial beef filler from hamburger sold in its outlets.

“This decision was due to ongoing customer concerns about these products,” said Mike Siemienas, a Supervalu spokesman.

While ammonia-treated hamburger filler has gotten most of the popular attention, Supervalu also said its ban on so-called “finely textured beef” includes meat treated with citric acid, which is made by Minnetonka-based Cargill Inc.

California-based Safeway Inc., another national grocery chain, also Wednesday said it nixed sales of both ammonia-treated and citric acid-treated ground beef fillers. Cargill spokesman Mike Martin acknowledged that some of its grocery industry customers have eliminated finely textured beef.

“There have been customers who have contacted us because they have been contacted by consumers who are interested and concerned,” Martin said.

Did Safeway and Supervalu stores get eggs from those nasty DeCoster farms in Iowa that sickened some 2,000 people with salmonella in 2010. Did they rely on crappy food safety audits to make their decision. If they are so concerned about consumer concerns, why won't they provide information on egg suppliers? Or any other food?

Choice is a good thing. I'm all for restaurant inspection disclosure, providing information on genetically-engineered foods (we did it 12 years ago), knowing where food comes from and how it's produced.

But I want to choose safe food. Who defines safety or GE or any other snappy dinner-table slogan drop? Removing pink slime hamburgers reduces my choice to buy microbiologically safe food

USDA and the companies that previously outlawed pink slime acted expediently to manage a public-relations event. But they unwillingly undercut other efforts to provide safe, sustainable food.

What is USDA going to do about school lunch purchases containing genetically-engineered ingredients, hormones, antibiotics, and a whole slew of politically-loaded ingredients or production practices?

If consumers want to become food connoisseurs and safety experts, more power to them. I view my job, and the job of farmers, processors, distributors and retailers, regardless of political leanings, to make evidence-based information available and let people decide.

Market microbial food safety and hold producers and processors – conventional, organic or otherwise – to a standard of honesty. Be honest with consumers and disclose what's in any food; if restaurant inspection results can be displayed on a placard via a QR code read by smartphones when someone goes out for a meal, why not at the grocery store? Or the school lunch? For any food, link to web sites detailing how the food was produced, processed and safely handled, or whatever becomes the next theatrical production – or be held hostage.

# # #

**Brian K. Mabry**  
**Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs**  
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U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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direct dial 202.720.9891  
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[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:15 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** Fw: AP: Kroger, Stop & Shop join 'pink slime' exodus

---

**From:** JIC2, OC - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 01:06 PM  
**To:** DeJong, Justin - OC; (b) (6) - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Cc:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** AP: Kroger, Stop & Shop join 'pink slime' exodus

**Kroger, Stop & Shop join 'pink slime' exodus (AP/WVNS-WV 3/22)** [Link](#)  
Supermarket chains Kroger Co. and Stop & Shop said Thursday they will join the growing list of store chains that will no longer sell beef that includes an additive with the unappetizing moniker "pink slime."

Federal regulators say the ammonia-treated filler, known in the industry as "lean, finely textured beef," meets food safety standards. But critics say the product could be unsafe and is an unappetizing example of industrialized food production.

The Kroger Co., the nation's largest traditional grocer with 2,435 supermarkets in 31 states, also said it will stop buying the beef, reversing itself after saying Wednesday that it would sell beef both with and without the additive.

Earlier Thursday, Stop & Shop said that while the U.S. Department of Agriculture has said the product is safe for consumption, it will stop selling the beef due to customer concerns. Stop & Shop is a unit of Dutch supermarkets owner Royal Ahold NV and operates 400 stores in the Northeast U.S.

The chains joined Safeway, Supervalu and Food Lion, among others, who have said they won't sell beef with the filler.

"Our customers have expressed their concerns that the use of lean finely textured beef — while fully approved by the USDA for safety and quality — is something they do not want in their ground beef," Kroger said in a statement. "As a result, Kroger will no longer purchase ground beef

containing lean finely textured beef."

The low-cost ingredient is made from fatty bits of meat left over from other cuts. The bits are heated to about 100 degrees Fahrenheit and spun to remove most of the fat. The lean mix then is compressed into blocks for use in ground meat. The product is exposed to ammonium hydroxide gas to kill bacteria, such as E. coli and salmonella.

Though the term "pink slime" has been used pejoratively for at least several years, it wasn't until early March that social media suddenly exploded with worry and an online petition seeking its ouster from schools lit up, quickly garnering hundreds of thousands of supporters.

The Agriculture Department said last week that, starting next fall, schools involved in the national school lunch program will have the option of avoiding the product.

Other stores have come out in recent days saying either that they never sold beef with the filler or they plan to stop doing so.

"Our ground beef vendors do not use an ammonium hydroxide treatment in their production processes," Target said in a statement. "Any additional questions can be directed to vendors."

Whole Foods, A&P and Costco said they have never sold beef products with the additive.

On Wednesday, Supervalu Inc. — which operates owns stores under the Acme, Albertsons, Cub Foods, Farm Fresh, Hornbacher's, Jewel-Osco, Lucky, Shaw's/Star Market, Shop 'n Save and Shoppers Food & Pharmacy banners — said that customer concern prompted it to stop carrying products containing the filler.

Delhaize America, the U.S. unit of Belgium's Delhaize Group, also said Wednesday that its Food Lion, Hannaford, Bottom Dollar Food and Sweetbay chains have made similar decisions.

And Safeway Inc., which operates the Genuardi's and Dominicks chains, as well as Safeway stores, also said Wednesday that it has announced it will stop selling fresh or frozen ground beef with the filler.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which sells more food than any other retailer, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Rachael Dubinsky  
Office of Communications  
United States Department of Agriculture  
[Pressoffice2@oc.usda.gov](mailto:Pressoffice2@oc.usda.gov)  
202-690-5000

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Are we having the call with Don?  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:29:03 PM

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Not much, primarily how to label meat/poultry cooked in a bag with cook out juices. 1 if only meat cooked, 2 if seasoned, 3 if injected and seasoned. And is it fair if they have to say cooked beef with natural juices but if they just threw the raw beef into the "soup" they wouldn't have to say "with natural juices." Blah blah blah. We do need to talk about it, probably with (b) (6) help. Kind of like (b) (6) and the dump the totes of beef into the grinder and pour in the blood and purge and it is ground beef, but can you just dump the purge into the ground beef....

These issues are just getting worse. This is more of capture every little bit and use it, don't pay to throw it away. (Pink Slime)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:34 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Are we having the call with Don?

Sorry I missed it. What was it about?

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:34 PM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** Are we having the call with Don?

(b) (6) Senior Technical Advisor  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division



USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

Phone (b) (6) Fax(202) 245-4792

1400 Independence Ave., S.W. - Stop 3784  
Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor Room 8-161A  
Washington, DC 20250

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

**Please include your name and/or company name, phone number and complete e-mail address so that we may promptly reply to your inquiries.**

FSIS, Labeling and Program Delivery Division

**Website:** <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/larc/index.htm>

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**From:** (b) (6) - OGC  
**To:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Are you two gentlemen in today?  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:48:27 PM

---

I am on my way. Thanks so much.

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OGC; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Are you two gentlemen in today?

Yes, I am here and available. When works for me to drop by?

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (202) 368-5457 -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

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**From:** (b) (6) - OGC  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:26 PM  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** Are you two gentlemen in today?

Pink slime. Need help soonest?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Award Certificate: The Best Of The Best Award  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 9:43:58 AM

---

All very good questions (b) (6) Take these questions with you in April. I sooo do want to hear the answer!

(b) (6)  
**Supervisory Investigator**  
**USDA, FSIS, OPEER, CID**

AMB Bldg #75  
JFK Int'l Airport  
North Hangar Road  
Jamaica, NY 11430  
718-244-5034  
fax:718-244-5037  
BB#(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 9:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) (DO65) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Award Certificate: The Best Of The Best Award

It's like the interview that Dan Englejohn gave recently on pink slime; did you read that Q and A? The last question was if there was going to be any forthcoming policy changes regarding LFTB; his answer was, "I'm not authorized to answer that question".

If the guy in charge of making FSIS Policy isn't authoized to answer questions on FSIS Policy, who is?????

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 08:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) (DO65) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Award Certificate: The Best Of The Best Award

Some questions will not be or can not be answered, this being one. So you want me to send you orange flavor or cherry?

-----  
Sent using BlackBerry  
Investigator (b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER  
701 Market Street  
Suite 4100C  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: 215-597-2015

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 08:12 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) (DO65) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Award Certificate: The Best Of The Best Award

The one part of the whole equation that no one from the top down is discussing is that only 15 percent or so of our time is supposed to be spent on the 85-15, Tier 1-Tier 2 surveillances. (I recall hearing that or reading that). With that said, that leaves a large percentage for investigative work(it has to be at least 15 percent, most likely more like 20 - 40 percent); after all, we are investigators, so if we're not working on investigations most of the time, we're not needed...Since most of the investigations come from Tier 3 facilities historically, how can we not be going into retail stores except based on leads???....Make no sense, logically, scientifically, statistically, etc... And, who said those cases aren't food safety, It's all food safety, from the NFI pork buns on down.

Someone from DC, please explain in detail how this is scientifically based and why Tier 1 are a scientific priority? I guess Compliance for the last 50 years was mismanaged if this is true???...no?  
...

Good question for upper mgmt in April at the NE Regional Meeting at the open forum on Monday, 04-16.....

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 08:03 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) (DO65) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Award Certificate: The Best Of The Best Award

At a rate of 1 review per day, I can swing a hangover. I am reviewing Hickey's II today in Jersey so that will cure it anyway. I learned that from the best Investigtor who ever worked the Jamaica office.

-----  
Sent using BlackBerry  
Investigator (b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER  
701 Market Street  
Suite 4100C  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: 215-597-2015

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 07:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) (DO65) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Award Certificate: The Best Of The Best Award

BTW, cheap vodka leads to hangovers...

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 07:49 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) (DO65) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Award Certificate: The Best Of The Best Award

You got that right and it was delish. On the downlow, I mixed it with cheap vodka so it would go down easier. I suggest you all do the same and get it overwith.

-----  
Sent using BlackBerry  
Investigator (b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER  
701 Market Street  
Suite 4100C  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: 215-597-2015

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 06:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) (DO65) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Award Certificate: The Best Of The Best Award

Chris, word on the street is that you drank the Kool-Aid...

<<Award Cert (b) (6).pdf>>

(b) (6)

(b) (6), Investigator

USDA-FSIS-OPEER

KBK Federal Bldg

100 State Street, Room 3225

Rochester, NY 14614

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(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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*MATT ANDERSON, VP*  
**THE MEAT BLOCK, INC.**  
**OFFICE@231-773-0224---CEL @ 231-206-2401**

**EMAIL @ [MEATBLOCKMATT@YAHOO.COM](mailto:MEATBLOCKMATT@YAHOO.COM)**

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Sam Bravata (b) (6)@troyers.com>

**To:** Matt Anderson <meatblockmatt@yahoo.com>

**Cc:** (b) (6)@comcast.net" (b) (6)@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 8, 2012 9:03 AM

**Subject:** FW: Beef Issue FYI: ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"

Sam Bravata

Direct Sales Rep.

Troyer Foods

Cell # (b) (6)

(b) (6)@troyers.com

---

**From:** Terry Blythe

**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:02 AM

**To:** (b) (6)

(b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: Beef Issue FYI: ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"

Sales if you watched ABC news last night here's some information and facts about LFTB.

Our Fresh grinds are 100% beef trimmings and do not have any LFTB added.

Many times the LFTB is added by further processors when making Patties. Just an FYI.

Terry Blythe

Director of Retail Sales

Troyer Foods

Cell (b) (6)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Beef Issue FYI: ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:48:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

*Hi – SORRY I couldn't call back the other day –NO coverage! I am hoping maybe to get a new phone & INTERNET!!!! I WANT INTERNET!!!! Maybe I will get better coverage, maybe!!*

*Saturday – probably not going to work out! I have plans! ☹ (b) (6)*

*!!!!*

*We will keep trying though!*

*Later – have a good 1!!!!*

(b) (6) ~ CSI  
(b) (6) Ext. (b) (6) Est.10017  
(b) (6) Est.10270  
(b) (6) Est.10226



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 5:09 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Beef Issue FYI: ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"

NICE! Are you still going riding this weekend? Maybe you and I can meet up on Saturday afternoon or evening. I have soup only on Sat. Should be early and the family is gone snowmobiling again. We could call Bernd. Take care. Later

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Beef Issue FYI: ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"

(b) (6) ~ CSI

(b) (6) Ext. (b) (6) Est.10017  
(b) (6) Est.10270  
(b) (6) Est.10226



---

**From:** Matt Anderson [mailto:meatblockmatt@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:29 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: Beef Issue FYI: ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"

*MATT ANDERSON, VP*

**THE MEAT BLOCK, INC.**

**OFFICE@231-773-0224---CEL @ 231-206-2401**

**EMAIL @ MEATBLOCKMATT@YAHOO.COM**

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Sam Bravata (b) (6)@troyers.com>  
**To:** Matt Anderson <meatblockmatt@yahoo.com>  
**Cc:** (b) (6)@comcast.net" (b) (6)@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 8, 2012 9:03 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Beef Issue FYI: ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"

Sam Bravata  
Direct Sales Rep.  
Troyer Foods  
Cell # (b) (6)  
(b) (6)@troyers.com

---

**From:** Terry Blythe  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:02 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: Beef Issue FYI: ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"

Sales if you watched ABC news last night here's some information and facts about LFTB. Our Fresh grinds are 100% beef trimmings and do not have any LFTB added. Many times the LFTB is added by further processors when making Patties. Just an FYI.

Terry Blythe  
Director of Retail Sales  
Troyer Foods  
Cell (b) (6)

---

**From:** Hastings, Brent [mailto:(b) (6)@tyson.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:42 AM  
**Subject:** Beef Issue FYI: ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"

**From:** Season Solorio - NCBA [mailto:seasonsolorioncba@beef.org]

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

### **ABC News Reports on "Pink Slime"**

*March 7, 2012*

Tonight [ABC News](#)--a national broadcast news outlet--aired a news investigation on the use of Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB), often called "pink slime," in supermarket ground beef. The three-minute segment features two former United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists, who strongly believe that LFTB should not be allowed to be labeled as meat. The newscast claims that 70 percent of all ground beef sold at the supermarket contains LFTB.

Ammonium hydroxide is used to produce a lean meat product that is added to ground beef to reduce the overall fat content without compromising flavor. It also has an anti-microbial effect. Ammonium hydroxide also is used in a variety of other processed foods, such as baked goods, gelatins and puddings, and cheeses, and can occur naturally in foods.

We have several resources available, should you receive any questions about the safety of beef, including the talking points copied below, as well as a [USDA fact sheet](#) and a [Meat MythCrusher](#) video featuring Dr. Gary Acuff, Director, Center for Food Safety and Professor of Food and Microbiology at Texas A&M University. These materials are available at [Explorebeef.org](#).

Given that the segment airs at different times in different markets, we will be monitoring the media and social media environment in order to determine best response routes and opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact Season Solorio at

[ssolorio@beef.org](mailto:ssolorio@beef.org).

*Funded by The Beef Checkoff*

###

**We have the safest, most wholesome beef supply in the world.**

- Ammonium hydroxide can be used as an antimicrobial to control and eliminate pathogens, such as *E. coli* O157:H7, which may be present in beef. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have determined this tool is safe. In addition to its use as an antimicrobial agent in meat products, the list of foods in which ammonium hydroxide is used as a direct food additive is extensive and includes baked goods, cheeses, chocolates, other confectionery (e.g., caramel) and puddings.
- According to USDA, only beef that has successfully completed the inspection requirements by the Food Safety and Inspection Service is eligible to enter into the national school lunch program (NSLP). The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) imposes strict requirements on food purchased by USDA for the NSLP to ensure that the food served to our children is safe and wholesome.
- Raising safe beef is the top priority for all cattlemen and is evidenced by their investment of \$30 million in beef safety research since 1993. The beef community as a whole invests \$550 million annually to research and implement food safety measures that include science, testing, implementation and validation.
- You can continue to feel confident buying and serving beef to your families.

This email was sent to [jerry.holbrook@tyson.com](mailto:jerry.holbrook@tyson.com) by [seasonssolorioncba@beef.org](mailto:seasonssolorioncba@beef.org) |  
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NCBA | 9110 East Nichols Ave | Suite 300 | Centennial | CO | 80112

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**From:** (b) (6) (FAS)  
**To:** (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) (FAS); Kishore, Rita - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) (FAS)  
**Subject:** RE: Beef trimmings  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:57:15 AM

---

(b) (6) is absolutely right. We should definitely not mention beef trimmings to the Commission as this is a very sore button relevant to the lactic acid dossier. Whatever that pink slime is we won't call it beef trimmings. We don't export beef trimmings here under the NHTC program. We would like trimmings included in the lactic acid regulation and that is a no-go at present and the argument has been why is the U.S. being such a stickler on this point when it doesn't export it here.

(b) (6)

FAS/USEU

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (USEU); 'Kishore, Rita - FSIS'; (b) (6) - FSIS'  
**Cc:** (b) (6) (USEU); (b) (6) (USEU); (b) (6) (USEU)  
**Subject:** RE: Beef trimmings

Rita,

(b) (6) is likely giving us wise advice for the UK. Steve is away at a conference this week, but if feasible, he may be able to make a quiet inquiry at the technical level when he returns. The definition of "beef trimmings" may be quite important here. Does FSIS have a technical definition?

From discussions I have had with the OIE here in Paris, production of mechanically separated or recovered meat is a common industry practice worldwide, including in the EU. One can only guess where it ends up. The question becomes how the hygiene/bacteria issue is dealt with for this product in the EU?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

**From:** [Harries, Rick - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Kishore, Rita - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Brookhouser, Gregory - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Beef trimmings  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:31:59 AM

---

Wonder if FAS is confusing low temperature rendering of trimmings with mechanical separation of meat from bones. Aren't they two different processes?

Rick Harries  
Director, Export Programs Staff  
Office of International Affairs, FSIS, USDA  
202-720-6508  
[Rick.Harries@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Rick.Harries@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Kishore, Rita - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Harries, Rick - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Beef trimmings

(b) (6)

Seems like this is common practice in the EU. When (b) (6) comes back he will let us know about UK. As you can well imagine FAS is not too keen to ask the Commission about it.

Rita

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@fas.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:26 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) (FAS); Kishore, Rita - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) (FAS); (b) (6) (FAS)  
**Subject:** RE: Beef trimmings

Rita,

(b) (6) is likely giving us wise advice for the UK. (b) (6) is away at a conference this week, but if feasible, he may be able to make a quiet inquiry at the technical level when he returns. The definition of "beef trimmings" may be quite important here. Does FSIS have a technical definition?

From discussions I have had with the OIE here in Paris, production of mechanically separated or recovered meat is a common industry practice worldwide, including in the EU. One can only guess where it ends up. The question becomes how the hygiene/bacteria issue is dealt with for this product in the EU?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) (USEU)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:56 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (USEU); 'Kishore, Rita - FSIS'; (b) (6) - FSIS'  
**Cc:** (b) (6) (USEU); (b) (6) (USEU); (b) (6) (USEU)  
**Subject:** RE: Beef trimmings

On other point: All of the beef coming to Europe is NHTC beef: I suppose this would typically not include this type of ingredient, correct? (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) (USEU)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:50 PM  
**To:** 'Kishore, Rita - FSIS'; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) (USEU); (b) (6) (USEU); (b) (6) (USEU)  
**Subject:** RE: Beef trimmings

Hello Rita:

I have to admit that this is the first time I hear someone use the term "pink slime". Rita: At this stage of the negotiations on the beef deal and especially lactic acid, I feel rather uncomfortable about checking with the Commission where this issue would exactly fall under EU legislation. And I am sure the U.S. industry would not want to see their exports to Europe linked to these words as well.

I don't really know for sure where this issue would come. I believe ammonium hydroxide is authorized as a food additive, but I will ask my colleague (b) (6) to give you more details on this as I am not entirely familiar with the revised regulations for additives. More specifically, she could say whether this substance would be authorized in meat products.

There are also rules on rendering of animal fats (see Section XII of the attached). I don't know if these would be relevant in this context.

Sorry this is the best I have for now.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)  
U.S. Mission to the EU | Foreign Agriculture Service  
Tel: (b) (6) | Fax: (32-2) 811 5560  
e-mail: (b) (6) @fas.usda.gov  
[www.fas.usda.gov/posthome/useu](http://www.fas.usda.gov/posthome/useu)

---

**From:** Kishore, Rita - FSIS [mailto:Rita.Kishore@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:35 PM

**To:** Knight, Steve - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6) (USEU); (b) (6)

**Subject:** Beef trimmings

Hello (b) (6) and (b) (6)

Hope you can help us. According to the article beef trimmings are banned for human consumption in the UK, is that true. I would appreciate your help. As you can see this is a very hot issue for us and would appreciate a quick response.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-pink-slime-20120309,0,1330346.story>

Thanks

Rita

(b) (6)

Are beef trimmings also banned in the EU?

Thanks

Rita

Rita Kishore

Deputy Director

Export Programs Staff

Office of International Affairs

Phone: 202 720 8911

---

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Kishore, Rita - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Brookhouser, Gregory - FSIS](#); [Harries, Rick - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Beef trimmings  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:18:25 AM

---

Thanks for the follow up. I would imagine the Commission is fully aware of the issue in the US, given the media coverage.

I hope you are able to assure (b) (6) that this type of product is not exported to the EU.....it is a domestic issue and we were only pursuing the quote in the media related t the UK.

(b) (6)  
International Policy Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
FAX: 202.720.4929

---

**From:** Kishore, Rita - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Brookhouser, Gregory - FSIS; Harries, Rick - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Beef trimmings

(b) (6)  
Seems like this is common practice in the EU. When (b) (6) comes back he will let us know about UK. As you can well imagine FAS is not too keen to ask the Commission about it.  
Rita

**From:** (b) (6) (AGR) [\[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov\]](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) (AGR)  
**Subject:** RE: Beef vertebral cord processed by Advanced Meat Recovery System (AMR) - confidential report  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:54:11 AM

---

Unfortunately school children eat pink slime everyday unawares.

Thanks for your candid reply.

---

**From:** (b) (6) (AGR) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** March 21, 2012 15:54  
**To:** (b) (6) (AGR)  
**Subject:** RE: Beef vertebral cord processed by Advanced Meat Recovery System (AMR) - confidential report

I stopped eating ground beef a long, long time ago because of my years in the processing plants.....that should tell you everything.....

One would hope that even if the source bovines are less than 30 months of age, the spinal cords and back straps are removed from the back bones prior to any use in ARMs or any trimmings are removed.

I don't agree with allowing LFTB(lean finely textured beef), aka, pink slime, to be called beef. It's a cost cutter, plain and simple. But, I think it should be on the label as it is and not called beef. If it was not allowed to be called beef, it couldn't used as an ingredient in any labeled "ground beef". It would have to go into "ground beef patties", which usually contain water, soy, etc.

Thankfully, the major fast food companies(McDonalds, Burger King and Taco Bell) saw the storm coming and stopped their suppliers from using it a few months ago). Given a few months of supplies in the freezer with it in there, ground beef and ground beef products from these companies should be rid of it by now....

---

**From:** (b) (6) (AGR) [mailto:(b) (6)@agriculture.ny.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 3:43 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (AGR) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Beef vertebral cord processed by Advanced Meat Recovery System (AMR) - confidential report

This is my concern with ammoniated beef – lack of control of SRM, especially foreign suppliers of trim.

Just wanted to know your take...

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** March 21, 2012 15:34  
**To:** (b) (6) (AGR)  
**Subject:** RE: Beef vertebral cord processed by Advanced Meat Recovery System (AMR) - confidential report

Hi, (b) (6)

Only if the bovine(s) are older than 30 months of age.

---

**From:** (b) (6) (AGR) [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@agriculture.ny.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 3:31 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Beef vertebral cord processed by Advanced Meat Recovery System (AMR) - confidential report

(b) (6)

I have a confidential report of a meat processor using AMR with beef vertebral column.  
Is this a concern regarding Specific Risk Material (SRM) entering the meat product?

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From: (b) (6)  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Re: beef; Mary  
Date: Saturday, March 24, 2012 12:29:43 PM

Thanks for telling us about pink slime  
we wondered about how things worked out in Ft Worth I was thinking good thoughts for Tess and all the dogs When you have time let us know that you are safely home On Thu 22 Mar 2012 19:20:28 +0000 (b) (6) - FSIS  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov writes: love Mom

Mom, Dad,

Here's an article (below) that explains a bit better what 'pink slime' is.

As you can see from the last paragraphs - it's not a 'bad' thing per se.

My only concern with it is the process used to decrease the fat content - I know the trimmings are heated (to drain off fat which is discarded), but I'm not sure at what temperature or for how long. If meat is held between 40 and 140 degrees, it does give bacteria a chance to grow - so that may be the reason that the ammoniation process is needed. My thought would be that there must be a better way to reduce the fat content without having to add heat.

(b) (6)

Love, (b) (6)

(b) (6), DVM  
Circuit 4 Supervisor  
Meat Inspection Services  
Food Safety Division  
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry  
(b) (6) (b) (6)  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

## Safeway to stop selling beef with LFTB

MeatPoultry.com, March 21, 2012  
by Erica Shaffer

WASHINGTON – Safeway Inc., the second-largest US supermarket chain, announced it will stop buying ground beef containing lean finely textured beef

In a statement, Safeway said: "While the USDA and food industry experts agree that lean finely textured beef is safe and wholesome, recent news stories have caused considerable consumer concern about this product. Safeway will no longer purchase ground beef containing lean finely textured beef."

Media reports and consumer backlash have prompted major industry stakeholders to stop using LFTB. Safeway joins food companies such as McDonald's Corp., Burger King and Taco Bell which have stopped using LFTB. Also, the USDA recently announced it would allow school districts to opt out of using LFTB in school lunches while at the same time reaffirming that the product is safe for consumption.

The meat industry has tried to counter the negative publicity surrounding LFTB. In announcing its decision to allow schools to opt out of using the product, USDA said the product is safe and nutritious.

"USDA continues to affirm the safety of lean finely textured beef product for all consumers and urges customers to consult science-based information on the safety and quality of this product," the agency said in a statement. "Lean finely textured beef is a meat product derived from a process which separates fatty pieces from beef trimmings to reduce the overall fat content."

Beef Products Inc. (BPI) developed the process that uses the compound ammonium hydroxide to rid the trimmings of foodborne pathogens such as *E. coli*. Eldon Roth, founder of BPI, released a statement defending the product.

"As parents and consumers continue to make important decisions about the food they and their children eat, we hope that they listen to credible sources outside media sensationalists and take note of the overwhelming support from the government and scientific community."

who have routinely testified that our lean beef trimmings are 100% beef and are produced, and tested in a way that makes this food very safe,” Roth said

Also, a student research project has revealed that lean finely textured beef improves the quality of fresh and cooked ground beef

Courtney Moon, a senior at the Univ of Arkansas majoring in animal science, presented her paper titled “Lean beef trim improved fresh and cooked quality characteristics of ground beef patties” at a student research competition. She found that ground beef containing up to 20 percent of LFTB improved the color of fresh beef, reduced spoilage and increased tenderness

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From: (b) (6)  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Re: beef; Mary  
Date: Thursday, March 22, 2012 5:41:53 PM

---

Thank you for writing. I'm sorry to find out that (b) (6) has a lump on his front leg. I was afraid that something like that might happen. Thanks for telling us about pink slime. It's great to have daughters who are so knowledgeable. I didn't know that (b) (6) has back trouble. I wanted to tell you that I had a package of lunchmeat in your deli pull out drawer - roasted chicken. I meant to put it in the freezer but I think that I forgot to. Just go ahead and eat it. Thanks for the info.  
I hope you get a major in Ft. Worth tomorrow. Be careful and have a safe trip/ Love Mom

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Bess Ross letter  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:07:32 PM

---

We do – and now that we have a policy change and a more fleshed-out message, we should be able to develop a more responsive campaign e-mail.

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Bess Ross letter

We definitely need to be consistent. I'm going to return to (b) (6)

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:58 PM

**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Bess Ross letter

Hi Rene – I think we should probably hold off on all “pink slime” responses now that the department has come out with both a changed policy (for AMS’ NSLP) and a more detailed statement on LFTB, per the press release that just went out.

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Bess Ross letter

(b) (6)

Please update (see attached) and return via email so that I can clear for signature.

<< File: Ross-Pink Slime[1][1][1].docx >>

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Bess Ross letter  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:11:28 PM

---

Greetings,

This letter is assigned to (b) (6). This morning I did share with her Brian's new language that we discussed this morning.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (202) 720-7609*

*Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)*

**Check your Steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basis/index.html>**

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Bess Ross letter

We definitely need to be consistent. I'm going to return to Martha.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Blog - Humane Handling  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:47:45 PM

---

Thanks – I'll definitely share!

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
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[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:36 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Blog - Humane Handling

Carol,

Since OFS requested the Humane Handling blog, I thought you might want to share some positive response with them.

The blog has gotten received 8 likes on Facebook and zero comments (which is positive in my opinion because comments are usually critical). Additionally, we received 12 retweets and this positive mention on Twitter:  
<http://twitter.com/#!/ALocalFolkus/status/179771455444226050>.

These are small wins, but wins nonetheless on such a controversial topic.

**Cathy Cochran**, *Public Affairs Specialist*  
Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-0428, Cell: 202-527-0607  
[Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)

[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)

[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

---

**From:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 5:14 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Blog - Humane Handling

The blog is up: <http://blogs.usda.gov/2012/03/13/an-open-look-at-how-fsis-enforces-the-humane-handling-of-livestock/>

**Cathy Cochran, Public Affairs Specialist**

Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

Office: 202-690-0428, Cell: 202-527-0607

Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov

[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)

[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)

[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:44 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Cochran, Catherine - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Blog - Humane Handling

Aaron will look for it now and work on clearing it – it just got buried in pink slime inquiries. Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**

**Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs**

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891

tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460

[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)

[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:43 PM  
**To:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Blog - Humane Handling

Haven't heard anything about it from him.

**Carol Blake**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:27 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Blog - Humane Handling

Hi,

Has anyone heard from Aaron about this? He didn't sound thrilled about posting it when I talked to him the first time, and I was wondering if he reached out to any of you about since I sent it over. I will check in with him if not.

**Cathy Cochran**, *Public Affairs Specialist*  
Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-0428, Cell: 202-527-0607  
[Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)  
[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)  
PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

---

**From:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:42 PM  
**To:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC  
**Cc:** Frank, Rebecca - OC; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Blog - Humane Handling

Hi Aaron,

Attached is a blog entry on humane handling and transparency, as we discussed on the phone last week. This was written at Dr. Hagen's request. Let me know if you have any questions about it or if you need anything else.

Best,

**Cathy Cochran**, *Public Affairs Specialist*

Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

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Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov

[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)

[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](https://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)

[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

**From:** [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Blog - Humane Handling  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 4:09:12 PM

---

Just got a call from (b) (6) Sounds like it should be up soon.

**Cathy Cochran, Public Affairs Specialist**

Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

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[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)

[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)

[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:44 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Cochran, Catherine - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Blog - Humane Handling

Aaron will look for it now and work on clearing it – it just got buried in pink slime inquiries. Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**

**Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs**

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891

tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460

[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)

[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Blog - Humane Handling  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:55:07 PM

---

Cathy,

Thanks for the feedback report – great job on a controversial topic that doesn't normally win us any likes. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:36 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Blog - Humane Handling

Carol,

Since OFS requested the Humane Handling blog, I thought you might want to share some positive response with them.

The blog has gotten received 8 likes on Facebook and zero comments (which is positive in my opinion because comments are usually critical). Additionally, we received 12 retweets and this positive mention on Twitter:  
<http://twitter.com/#!/ALocalFolkus/status/179771455444226050>.

These are small wins, but wins nonetheless on such a controversial topic.

**Cathy Cochran, Public Affairs Specialist**  
Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-0428, Cell: 202-527-0607  
[Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)  
[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)  
PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

**From:** [Hulsey, Laura - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:29:42 AM

---

I did, but it somehow got away from me! I think we're okay, at least you are aware of the issue if it comes up again. Thanks.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:28 AM  
**To:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Sounds good to me. I had thought that you wanted us to send a response, but this works. Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

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---

**From:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6) since this first came in here we should be good to go, don't you think? If it had come directly to you, it would have needed to come back to customer from you. It may be the customer is researching the regulations quoted which may take a while for her to respond.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:03 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

BTW, Kat has not updated her incident, which might indicate she is satisfied with our response. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 8:50 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

I already answered her question through askFSIS. I believe I "bcc'ed" you on that response. Are you saying that my answer was too complex and needs to be refined/resent? Here is the response from 3/26:



Kat,

Thank you for your askFSIS question regarding the safety of beef products treated with ammonia hydroxide. FSIS continues to affirm the safety of beef products treated with ammonium hydroxide.

Specifically, your questions are:

Q1: How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

A1: The ammonium hydroxide can be used in food with no limitation, other than current good manufacturing practice, in full compliance with 21 CFR 184.1139 (<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=30dd3e223b7deafb30b76b50904e07e&rgn=div8&view=text&node=21:3.0.1.1.14.2.1.31&idno=21>). The level of ammonium hydroxide in food is self-limiting. Foods containing high levels of ammonium hydroxide would be made unpalatable by the change in the organoleptic qualities of the food.

Q2: What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

A2: The ammonium hydroxide used in the production of food would need to meet the specifications for food grade as outlined in the Food Chemicals Codex (<http://www.usp.org/food-ingredients/food-chemicals-codex>). Industrial and household cleaners do not need to meet the food grade standard.

I hope this information helps. Thank you again for your e-mail and your concern for food safety. More information about food safety can be found on FSIS' Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov).

Please feel free to call me or to update your incident if you have further questions or wish to discuss my response.

Peter Duryea  
PDD Staff Officer  
1 800 233 3935

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 8:42 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Good morning,

Can you put this in plain language so that the consumer can easily understand the answers to her two questions: How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption? What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

Thanks so much. Consumers are asking very technical questions but expect very simple answers. Such is life.

(b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Below you should find what FDA has said about ammonium hydroxide. I hope this information is helpful.

(b) (6)

The manufacturer would need to ensure that their intended use of ammonium hydroxide is in full compliance with 21 CFR 184.1139. The use level would be based on current good manufacturing practice. The ammonium hydroxide would need to meet the specifications for food grade as outlined in the Food Chemicals Codex. We note that the level of ammonium hydroxide in food is self-limiting. Foods containing high levels of ammonium hydroxide would be made unpalatable by the change in the organoleptic qualities of the food.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:24 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Thanks very much.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:06 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Thanks (b) (6) (b) (6) is still waiting to hear back from FDA on help for answering the question. I'll wait on that, then formulate/send a response and "bcc" everybody.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 7:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Good morning,

Sorry to get back to you so late—Friday was my flex day.

Attached is the standard response that we are sending out. Even though it specifically addresses the School Lunch Program, we are sending it out for all inquiries. But the situation is constantly changing.

Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 8:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Just FYI..we are still working on response. I've got the question on "researching answer." Any input yet from your staff?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Thanks (b) (6) I'll stall till I hear from you/FDA. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:32 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

I will check with FDA directly. I want to see if there is a commercial quality versus a food grade quality. I probably won't hear back from them until tomorrow.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:25 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Haven't heard anything back from Pat.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Did Pat answer your question?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:08 AM  
**To:** Burke, Patrick - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Hulse, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Pat,

Sorry, I forgot Dr. Zeitz retired.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Zeitz, David - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulse, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Hi folks,

I've got this sensitive question in askFSIS. I just want to make sure I'm on the right track with my answers. My answers need to be "short" per ECIMS. Can you comment?

(b) (6)

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

(b) (5)

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

(b) (5)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

The more I think about this, the more I think it should run through NT. Also (b) (6) knows a lot about ammonium hydroxide, you might check with her for input.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:39 AM  
**To:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

If I were to answer the two questions here is what I would say:

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

The ammonium hydroxide is used in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practice as long as the FDA guidance for use is followed as described in **Title 21: Food and Drugs PART 184—DIRECT FOOD SUBSTANCES AFFIRMED AS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE § 184.1139 Ammonium hydroxide.**

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

The ammonium hydroxide used in the industrial and household cleaners is chemically identical, NH<sub>4</sub>OH, to that used in the BPI beef product.

(b) (6)

(optional additional info)

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=b2012c837967492648bad57299f83b54&rgn=div5&view=text&node=21:3.0.1.1.14&idno=21#21:3.0.1.1.14.2.1.31>

**Title 21: Food and Drugs**  
**PART 184—DIRECT FOOD SUBSTANCES AFFIRMED AS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE**  
**§ 184.1139 Ammonium hydroxide.**

(a) Ammonium hydroxide (NH<sub>4</sub>OH, CAS Reg. No. 1336–21–6) is produced by passing ammonia gas into water.

(b) The ingredient meets the specifications of the Food Chemicals Codex, 3d Ed. (1981), p. 20, which is incorporated by reference. Copies are available from the National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20418, or available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202–741–6030, or go to: [http://www.archives.gov/federal\\_register/code\\_of\\_federal\\_regulations/ibr\\_locations.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html).

(c) In accordance with §184.1(b)(1), the ingredient is used in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practice. The affirmation of this ingredient as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) as a direct human food ingredient is based upon the following current good manufacturing practice conditions of use:

(1) The ingredient is used as a leavening agent as defined in §170.3(o)(17) of this chapter; a pH control agent as defined in §170.3(o)(23) of this chapter; a surface-finishing agent as defined in §170.3(o)(30) of this chapter; and as a boiler water additive complying with §173.310 of this chapter.

(2) The ingredient is used in food at levels not to exceed current good manufacturing practice. The ingredient may also be used as a boiler water additive at levels not to exceed current good manufacturing practice.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:06 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Good morning,

We will be glad to answer it. We do need help with the last two questions. Can you give me short answers to those? Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

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---

**From:** PDD Staff Officer [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:44 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS

**Subject:** FWD: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
Pete Duryea (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

**Sender's Comment**

(b) (6)

Per my supervisor, Dr. Hulsey, instructions, we thought it might be prudent to forward this askFSIS incident to your office. We can assist with answering some of it. Contact me if needed.

I will keep the incident status as 'researching answer' until we hear back from your office on how to proceed.

Pete Duryea

PDD Staff Officer

1 800 233 3935 x (b) (6)

**Reference #120321-000097**

**Summary:** Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

**Rule State:** 4 - In Progress

**Product Level 1:** General Inspection Policy

**Category Level 1:** Processing

**Category Level 2:** General

**Date Created:** 03/21/2012 02:32 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/21/2012 03:55 PM

**Status:** Researching Answer

**Assigned:** Pete Duryea

**Policy Arena?:** Domestic (U.S.) Only

**Phone Number:** 9892558750

**Establishment Number:**

**Establishment Size:** Not Applicable

**Call Duration:**

**Phone Incident:**

**Direct Email Incident:**

**Analytics Flag:**

**Analysis Product:**

**Analysis Category:**

**Policy Follow-up:** No

**Key Words**

**Analysis Notes**

**Discussion Thread**

**Auto-Response**

03/21/2012

02:32 PM

Your message has been received at the FSIS Policy Development Division (PDD) and will be assigned to a staff specialist for response.

Our goal is to provide an accurate response as quickly as possible—in most instances, this will be within two working days. Some questions, however, require extensive research and will take longer to answer. If you would like to know the status of

your question, you can telephone PDD for additional discussion at 1-800-233-3935 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. Please refer to the incident reference number below when calling for clarification.

The reference number for your question is 120321-000097.

You may update your incident at [http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119837/username/JazzKat57](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119837/username/JazzKat57)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Policy Development Division.

**Customer By Web Form (Kat Tomaszewski)**

03/21/2012  
02:32 PM

Hello,

Recently in the media there has been an outbreak of information regarding the use ammonium hydroxide on beef trimmings to create "pink slime."

According to Beef Products, Inc. they use 10mg of man-made ammonium hydroxide to kill the E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria in their beef trimmings ("trimmings" are the pieces of lean meat and fat that are the result of taking larger pieces of meat and cutting them to meet customer specifications) along with the 30mg of naturally occurring ammonia in the beef itself.

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

AND

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

Thanks in advance!

Kat

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:13:27 AM

---

(b) (6)

FDA's computer system for checking the question is having problems and can only be accessed from their offices. My contact at FDA is working from home today but he will be back in the office on Monday and will let me know then.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Thanks (b) (6) I'll stall till I hear from you/FDA. (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:53:20 PM

---

Thank you very much.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6) @live.com

It is hidden in askFSIS profile that the correspondent (Kat Tomaszewski) created.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:18 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Hi,

It must be me, but I cannot find the correspondent's e-mail address in this string.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:49 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products



Yes, we can answer, although due to the two specific questions at the end of the message, we can't add it to our bundle of campaign responses.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 06:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Should this be added to our campaign or should I answer it separately? I think it is a good practice to do something for PDD since that staff does so much for us. Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

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---

**From:** PDD Staff Officer [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
Pete Duryea (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Linda,

Per my supervisor, Dr. Hulsey, instructions, we thought it might be prudent to forward this askFSIS incident to your office. We can assist with answering some of it. Contact me if needed.

I will keep the incident status as 'researching answer' until we hear back from your office on how to proceed.

Pete Duryea  
PDD Staff Officer  
1 800 233 3935 x 45027

#### Reference #120321-000097

**Summary:** Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

**Rule State:** 4 - In Progress

**Product Level 1:** General Inspection Policy

**Category Level 1:** Processing

**Category Level 2:** General

**Date Created:** 03/21/2012 02:32 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/21/2012 03:55 PM  
**Status:** Researching Answer  
**Assigned:** Pete Duryea  
**Policy Arena?:** Domestic (U.S.) Only  
**Phone Number:** 9892558750  
**Establishment Number:**  
**Establishment Size:** Not Applicable  
**Call Duration:**  
**Phone Incident:**  
**Direct Email Incident:**  
**Analytics Flag:**  
**Analysis Product:**  
**Analysis Category:**  
**Policy Follow-up:** No

#### Key Words

#### Analysis Notes

#### Discussion Thread

##### Auto-Response

03/21/2012  
02:32 PM

Your message has been received at the FSIS Policy Development Division (PDD) and will be assigned to a staff specialist for response.

Our goal is to provide an accurate response as quickly as possible—in most instances, this will be within two working days. Some questions, however, require extensive research and will take longer to answer. If you would like to know the status of your question, you can telephone PDD for additional discussion at 1-800-233-3935 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. Please refer to the incident reference number below when calling for clarification.

The reference number for your question is 120321-000097.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119837/username/JazzKat57](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119837/username/JazzKat57)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Policy Development Division.

##### Customer By Web Form (Kat Tomaszewski)

03/21/2012  
02:32 PM

Hello,

Recently in the media there has been an outbreak of information regarding the use ammonium hydroxide on beef trimmings to create “pink slime.”

According to Beef Products, Inc. they use 10mg of man-made ammonium hydroxide to kill the E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria in their beef trimmings ("trimmings" are the pieces of lean meat and fat that are the result of taking larger pieces of meat and cutting them to meet

customer specifications) along with the 30mg of naturally occurring ammonia in the beef itself.

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

AND

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

Thanks in advance!

Kat

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Hulsey, Laura - FSIS](#); [Shaw, William - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Seebohm, Scott - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:02:23 AM

---

Just an FYI

I've been working with Catherine Cochran and FDA on a fact sheet for Ammonium hydroxide. Seems like we've been duplicating our efforts on this issue. I'll forward the fact sheet and status shortly

(b) (6)  
Office: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:59 AM  
**To:** Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Seebohm, Scott - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Just as follow-up, here is the information (b) (6) provided back to the customer inquiry, after joint effort by Pat Burke, (b) (6).

---

**From:** FSIS Policy Development Division [mailto:pdd@custhelp.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)@live.com  
**Subject:** Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Recently you requested personal assistance from our on-line support center. Below is a summary of your request and our response.

Thank you for allowing us to be of service to you.

To update this question by email, please reply to this message. Because your reply will be automatically processed, you MUST enter your reply in the space below. Text entered into any other part of this message will be discarded.

[====> Please enter your reply below this line <====]

[====> Please enter your reply above this line <====]

[To access your question from our support site, click here.](#)

#### Subject

Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

#### Discussion Thread

**Response Via Email (PDD Staff Officer)**

03/26/2012 11:53 AM

Kat,

Thank you for your askFSIS question regarding the safety of beef products treated with ammonia hydroxide. FSIS continues to affirm the safety of beef products treated with ammonium hydroxide.

Specifically, your questions are:

Q1: How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

A1: The ammonium hydroxide can be used in food with no limitation, other than current good manufacturing practice, in full compliance with 21 CFR 184.1139 (<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=30dd3e223b7deafb30b76b50904e07e&rgn=div8&view=text&node=21:3.0.1.1.14.2.1.31&idno=21>). The level of ammonium hydroxide in food is self-limiting. Foods containing high levels of ammonium hydroxide would be made unpalatable by the change in the organoleptic qualities of the food.

Q2: What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

A2: The ammonium hydroxide used in the production of food would need to meet the specifications for food grade as outlined in the Food Chemicals Codex (<http://www.usp.org/food-ingredients/food-chemicals-codex>). Industrial and household cleaners do not need to meet the food grade standard.

I hope this information helps. Thank you again for your e-mail and your concern for food safety. More information about food safety can be found on FSIS' Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov). Please feel to call me or to update your incident if you have further questions or wish to discuss my response.

Peter Duryea  
PDD Staff Officer  
1 800 233 3935

**Auto-Response**

03/21/2012 02:32 PM

Your message has been received at the FSIS Policy Development Division (PDD) and will be assigned to a staff specialist for response.

Our goal is to provide an accurate response as quickly as possible—in most instances, this will be within two working days. Some questions, however, require extensive research and will take longer to answer. If you would like to know the status of your question, you can telephone PDD for additional discussion at 1-800-233-3935 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. Please refer to the incident reference number below when calling for clarification.

The reference number for your question is 120321-000097.

You may update your incident at  
[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119837/username/JazzKat57](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119837/username/JazzKat57)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Policy Development Division.

**Customer By Web Form (Kat Tomaszewski)**

03/21/2012 02:32 PM

Hello,

Recently in the media there has been an outbreak of information regarding the use ammonium hydroxide on beef trimmings to create "pink slime."

According to Beef Products, Inc. they use 10mg of man-made ammonium hydroxide to kill the E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria in their beef trimmings ("trimmings" are the pieces of lean meat and fat that are the result of taking larger pieces of meat and cutting them to meet customer specifications) along with the 30mg of naturally occurring ammonia in the beef itself.

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

AND

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

Thanks in advance!  
Kat

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:25:44 PM

---

(b) (6)

Check with (b) (6) for the latest from FDA.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:16 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Hi (b) (6)

I am getting mixed up on several letters I am drafting re ammonium hydroxide. (b) (5)  
Can you please verify this? Sorry. Right I wish the "slime" would ooze out of here!!

(b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Below you should find what FDA has said about ammonium hydroxide. I hope this information is helpful.

(b) (6)

The manufacturer would need to ensure that their intended use of ammonium hydroxide is in full compliance with 21 CFR 184.1139. The use level would be based on current good manufacturing practice. The ammonium hydroxide would need to meet the specifications for food grade as outlined in the Food Chemicals Codex. We note that the level of ammonium hydroxide in food is self-limiting. Foods containing high levels of ammonium hydroxide would be made unpalatable by the change in the organoleptic qualities of the food.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:24 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Thanks very much.

(b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:06 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Thanks (b) (6) (b) (6) is still waiting to hear back from FDA on help for answering the question. I'll wait on that, then formulate/send a response and "bcc" everybody.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 7:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Good morning,

Sorry to get back to you so late—Friday was my flex day.

Attached is the standard response that we are sending out. Even though it specifically addresses the School Lunch Program, we are sending it out for all inquiries. But the situation is constantly changing.

Thanks.

(b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 8:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Just FYI..we are still working on response. I've got the question on "researching answer." Any input yet from your staff?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Thanks (b) (6) I'll stall till I hear from you/FDA. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:32 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

I will check with FDA directly. I want to see if there is a commercial quality versus a food grade quality. I probably won't hear back from them until tomorrow.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:25 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Haven't heard anything back from Pat.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

(b) (6)

Did Pat answer your question?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:08 AM  
**To:** Burke, Patrick - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Hulse, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Pat,

Sorry, I forgot Dr. Zeitz retired.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Zeitz, David - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulse, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Hi folks,

I've got this sensitive question in askFSIS. I just want to make sure I'm on the right track with my answers. My answers need to be "short" per ECIMS. Can you comment?

(b) (6)

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

The ammonium hydroxide can be used in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practice as long as the FDA guidance for its use is followed, as described in

[Title 21: Food and Drugs](#), PART 184—DIRECT FOOD SUBSTANCES AFFIRMED AS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE  
§ 184.1139 Ammonium hydroxide.

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

The ammonium hydroxide used in the industrial and household cleaners is chemically identical, NH<sub>4</sub>OH, to that used in the BPI beef product.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Hulse, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

The more I think about this, the more I think it should run through NT. Also Carrie knows a lot about ammonium hydroxide, you



might check with her for input.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:39 AM  
**To:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

If I were to answer the two questions here is what I would say:

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

The ammonium hydroxide is used in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practice as long as the FDA guidance for use is followed as described in **Title 21: Food and Drugs**

**PART 184—DIRECT FOOD SUBSTANCES AFFIRMED AS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE**

**§ 184.1139 Ammonium hydroxide.**

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

The ammonium hydroxide used in the industrial and household cleaners is chemically identical, NH<sub>4</sub>OH, to that used in the BPI beef product.

(b) (6)

(optional additional info)

[http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?  
c=ecfr&sid=b2012c837967492648bad57299f83b54&rgn=div5&view=text&node=21:3.0.1.1.14&idno=21#21:3.0.1.1.14.2.1.31](http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=b2012c837967492648bad57299f83b54&rgn=div5&view=text&node=21:3.0.1.1.14&idno=21#21:3.0.1.1.14.2.1.31)

**Title 21: Food and Drugs**

**PART 184—DIRECT FOOD SUBSTANCES AFFIRMED AS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE**

**§ 184.1139 Ammonium hydroxide.**

(a) Ammonium hydroxide (NH<sub>4</sub>OH, CAS Reg. No. 1336–21–6) is produced by passing ammonia gas into water.

(b) The ingredient meets the specifications of the Food Chemicals Codex, 3d Ed. (1981), p. 20, which is incorporated by reference. Copies are available from the National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20418, or available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202–741–6030, or go to: [http://www.archives.gov/federal\\_register/code\\_of\\_federal\\_regulations/ibr\\_locations.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html).

(c) In accordance with §184.1(b)(1), the ingredient is used in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practice. The affirmation of this ingredient as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) as a direct human food ingredient is based upon the following current good manufacturing practice conditions of use:

(1) The ingredient is used as a leavening agent as defined in §170.3(o)(17) of this chapter; a pH control agent as defined in §170.3(o)(23) of this chapter; a surface-finishing agent as defined in §170.3(o)(30) of this chapter; and as a boiler water additive complying with §173.310 of this chapter.

(2) The ingredient is used in food at levels not to exceed current good manufacturing practice. The ingredient may also be used as a boiler water additive at levels not to exceed current good manufacturing practice.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:06 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Good morning,

We will be glad to answer it. We do need help with the last two questions. Can you give me short answers to those? Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** PDD Staff Officer [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS

**Subject:** FWD: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
Pete Duryea ((b) (6))@fsis.usda.gov)

**Sender's Comment**

Linda,

Per my supervisor, Dr. Hulsey, instructions, we thought it might be prudent to forward this askFSIS incident to your office. We can assist with answering some of it. Contact me if needed.

I will keep the incident status as 'researching answer' until we hear back from your office on how to proceed.

Pete Duryea  
PDD Staff Officer  
1 800 233 3935 x 45027

**Reference #120321-000097**

**Summary:** Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Rule State:** 4 - In Progress  
**Product Level 1:** General Inspection Policy  
**Category Level 1:** Processing  
**Category Level 2:** General  
**Date Created:** 03/21/2012 02:32 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/21/2012 03:55 PM  
**Status:** Researching Answer  
**Assigned:** Pete Duryea  
**Policy Arena?:** Domestic (U.S.) Only  
**Phone Number:** 9892558750  
**Establishment Number:**  
**Establishment Size:** Not Applicable  
**Call Duration:**  
**Phone Incident:**  
**Direct Email Incident:**  
**Analytics Flag:**  
**Analysis Product:**  
**Analysis Category:**  
**Policy Follow-up:** No

**Key Words**

**Analysis Notes**

**Discussion Thread**

<b>Auto-Response</b>	03/21/2012 02:32 PM
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The reference number for your question is 120321-000097.

You may update your incident at [http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119837/username/JazzKat57](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119837/username/JazzKat57)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Policy Development Division.

<b>Customer By Web Form (Kat Tomaszewski)</b>	03/21/2012 02:32 PM
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Hello,

Recently in the media there has been an outbreak of information regarding the use ammonium hydroxide on beef trimmings

to create "pink slime."

According to Beef Products, Inc. they use 10mg of man-made ammonium hydroxide to kill the E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria in their beef trimmings ("trimmings" are the pieces of lean meat and fat that are the result of taking larger pieces of meat and cutting them to meet customer specifications) along with the 30mg of naturally occurring ammonia in the beef itself.

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

AND

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

Thanks in advance!

Kat

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:18:09 AM

---

You answers are correct. After centrifugation, aqueous ammonium hydroxide is added as a pH control agent/antimicrobial (b) (6) will contend that there is no residual and it dissipates. He opened a bag of injected ammoniated beef (intact cut) for sensory analysis after 2 weeks...my cynical sniff test. Didn't pass. (b) (5). Stay tuned.

(b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD  
Policy Development Division  
Zorinsky Federal Building  
1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260  
Omaha, NE  
Office (b) (6)

---

**From:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

The more I think about this, the more I think it should run through NT. Also (b) (6) knows a lot about ammonium hydroxide, you might check with her for input.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:39 AM  
**To:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Huh? There are only two questions to answer. Anyway, if I were to answer the two questions here is what I would say:

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

The ammonium hydroxide is used in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practice as long as the FDA guidance for use is followed as described in **Title 21: Food and Drugs**  
**PART 184—DIRECT FOOD SUBSTANCES AFFIRMED AS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE**  
**§ 184.1139 Ammonium hydroxide.**

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

The ammonium hydroxide used in the industrial and household cleaners is chemically identical, NH<sub>4</sub>OH, to that used in the BPI beef product.

(b) (6)

(optional additional info)

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=b2012c837967492648bad57299f83b54&rgn=div5&view=text&node=21:3.0.1.1.14&idno=21#21:3.0.1.1.14.2.1.31>

**Title 21: Food and Drugs**

**PART 184—DIRECT FOOD SUBSTANCES AFFIRMED AS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE**

**§ 184.1139 Ammonium hydroxide.**

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(c) In accordance with §184.1(b)(1), the ingredient is used in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practice. The affirmation of this ingredient as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) as a direct human food ingredient is based upon the following current good manufacturing practice conditions of use:

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---

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**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:06 AM  
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**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Good morning,

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(b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** PDD Staff Officer [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:  
Pete Duryea (peter.duryea@fsis.usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Linda,

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I will keep the incident status as 'researching answer' until we hear back from your office on how to proceed.

Pete Duryea  
PDD Staff Officer  
1 800 233 3935 x (b) (6)

#### Reference #120321-000097

**Summary:** Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
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**Category Level 1:** Processing  
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**Date Created:** 03/21/2012 02:32 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/21/2012 03:55 PM  
**Status:** Researching Answer  
**Assigned:** Pete Duryea  
**Policy Arena?:** Domestic (U.S.) Only  
**Phone Number:** 9892558750  
**Establishment Number:**  
**Establishment Size:** Not Applicable  
**Call Duration:**  
**Phone Incident:**  
**Direct Email Incident:**  
**Analytics Flag:**  
**Analysis Product:**  
**Analysis Category:**  
**Policy Follow-up:** No

#### Key Words

#### Analysis Notes

**Discussion Thread****Auto-Response**03/21/2012  
02:32 PM

Your message has been received at the FSIS Policy Development Division (PDD) and will be assigned to a staff specialist for response.

Our goal is to provide an accurate response as quickly as possible—in most instances, this will be within two working days. Some questions, however, require extensive research and will take longer to answer. If you would like to know the status of your question, you can telephone PDD for additional discussion at 1-800-233-3935 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. Please refer to the incident reference number below when calling for clarification.

The reference number for your question is 120321-000097.

You may update your incident at [http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119837/username/JazzKat57](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119837/username/JazzKat57)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Policy Development Division.

**Customer By Web Form (Kat Tomaszewski)**03/21/2012  
02:32 PM

Hello,

Recently in the media there has been an outbreak of information regarding the use ammonium hydroxide on beef trimmings to create "pink slime."

According to Beef Products, Inc. they use 10mg of man-made ammonium hydroxide to kill the E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria in their beef trimmings ("trimmings" are the pieces of lean meat and fat that are the result of taking larger pieces of meat and cutting them to meet customer specifications) along with the 30mg of naturally occurring ammonia in the beef itself.

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

AND

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

Thanks in advance!

Kat

**From:** [Hulsey, Laura - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#); [Shaw, William - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#); [Mbandi, Evelynne - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Seebohm, Scott - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:03:21 AM

---

Good, thanks, I'll share with staff here. Hopefully we can all get on the same page and give consistent answers.

---

**From:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:02 AM  
**To:** [Hulsey, Laura - FSIS](#); [Shaw, William - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Seebohm, Scott - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Just an FYI

I've been working with [\(b\) \(6\)](#) and FDA on a fact sheet for Ammonium hydroxide. Seems like we've been duplicating our efforts on this issue. I'll forward the fact sheet and status shortly

[\(b\) \(6\)](#)  
Office: [\(b\) \(6\)](#)

---

**From:** [Hulsey, Laura - FSIS](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:59 AM  
**To:** [Shaw, William - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#); [Mbandi, Evelynne - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Seebohm, Scott - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Just as follow-up, here is the information [\(b\) \(6\)](#) provided back to the customer inquiry, after joint effort by Pat Burke, [\(b\) \(6\)](#).

---

**From:** FSIS Policy Development Division [<mailto:pdd@custhelp.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:54 AM  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\)@live.com](#)  
**Subject:** Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Recently you requested personal assistance from our on-line support center. Below is a summary of your request and our response.

Thank you for allowing us to be of service to you.

To update this question by email, please reply to this message. Because your reply will be automatically processed, you MUST enter your reply in the space below. Text entered into any other part of this message will be discarded.

[====> Please enter your reply below this line <====]

[====> Please enter your reply above this line <====]

[To access your question from our support site, click here.](#)

---

#### Subject

Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

---

#### Discussion Thread

Response Via Email (PDD Staff Officer)

03/26/2012 11:53 AM

Kat,

Thank you for your askFSIS question regarding the safety of beef products treated with ammonia hydroxide. FSIS continues to affirm the safety of beef products treated with ammonium hydroxide.

Specifically, your questions are:

Q1: How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

A1: The ammonium hydroxide can be used in food with no limitation, other than current good manufacturing practice, in full compliance with 21 CFR 184.1139 (<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=30dd3e223b7deafb30b76b50904e07e&rgn=div8&view=text&node=21:3.0.1.1.14.2.1.31&idno=21>). The level of ammonium hydroxide in food is self-limiting. Foods containing high levels of ammonium hydroxide would be made unpalatable by the change in the organoleptic qualities of the food.

Q2: What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

A2: The ammonium hydroxide used in the production of food would need to meet the specifications for food grade as outlined in the Food Chemicals Codex (<http://www.usp.org/food-ingredients/food-chemicals-codex>). Industrial and household cleaners do not need to meet the food grade standard.

I hope this information helps. Thank you again for your e-mail and your concern for food safety. More information about food safety can be found on FSIS' Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov). Please feel to call me or to update your incident if you have further questions or wish to discuss my response.

Peter Duryea  
PDD Staff Officer  
1 800 233 3935

**Auto-Response**

03/21/2012 02:32 PM

Your message has been received at the FSIS Policy Development Division (PDD) and will be assigned to a staff specialist for response.

Our goal is to provide an accurate response as quickly as possible—in most instances, this will be within two working days. Some questions, however, require extensive research and will take longer to answer. If you would like to know the status of your question, you can telephone PDD for additional discussion at 1-800-233-3935 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. Please refer to the incident reference number below when calling for clarification.

The reference number for your question is 120321-000097.

You may update your incident at  
[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119837/username/JazzKat57](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119837/username/JazzKat57)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Policy Development Division.

**Customer By Web Form (Kat Tomaszewski)**

03/21/2012 02:32 PM

Hello,

Recently in the media there has been an outbreak of information regarding the use ammonium hydroxide on beef trimmings to create "pink slime."

According to Beef Products, Inc. they use 10mg of man-made ammonium hydroxide to kill the E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria in their beef trimmings ("trimmings" are the pieces of lean meat and fat that are the result of taking larger pieces of meat and cutting them to meet customer specifications) along with the 30mg of naturally occurring ammonia in the beef itself.

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

AND



[REDACTED] ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

[REDACTED]  
Kat [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Hulsey, Laura - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:55:49 AM

---

Thanks. I having admin staff keep track of how many calls are transferred to whom. I'm also going to send out and email after awhile and see if any probs. This is just incredible what a difference it makes not to have the phone call announcements going on all the time. Very peaceful.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:52 AM  
**To:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Just one PHIS call. Inspector generated sampling for lymphoma. Trouble with drop down menu choices. Investigating and will call him back later.

---

**From:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:24 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Awesome, thanks. Have you been transferred any calls yet? It's so quiet here!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:23 AM  
**To:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Yes. I told (b) (6) that I could answer any pink slime calls that come in. Or (b) (6) (b) (6)

---

**From:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:23 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Quite the learning experience, huh. Thanks for sharing with everyone.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:57 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OPPD/PDD  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Just FYI....here is the standard response being sent out by ECIMS for the pink slime.

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:58:53 PM

---

I'll take 50 lbs of slime please at .05 per pound!

(b) (6)

Program Auditor

USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Ave, Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5980

(b) (6) (office) (b) (6) (mobile), (402) 344-5104 (Fax)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:57 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OPPD/PDD  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Just FYI....here is the standard response being sent out by ECIMS for the pink slime.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 7:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium hydroxide in beef products

Good morning,

Sorry to get back to you so late—Friday was my flex day.

Attached is the standard response that we are sending out. Even though it specifically addresses the School Lunch Program, we are sending it out for all inquiries. But the situation is constantly changing.

Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium Hydroxide or "Pink Slime" Stats  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:43:45 AM

---

Thank you for the latest (b) (6)

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 4:32 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS; Tuverson, Robert - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Ammonium Hydroxide or "Pink Slime" Stats

Hi (b) (6)

I'm off tomorrow so in case you are asked about the status of the calls I put together a short summary.

The Hotline has received a total of 24 questions related to pink slime since last Monday and only 3 of them today so the buzz seems to be dying down a bit. This is about 10% of calls to the Hotline so it's not a high number but the callers were angry so it seems like it.

Email was busy over the weekend and is still receiving a higher number of inquiries than the Hotline via the phone. Ask Karen has had 28 inquiries since March 5 and (b) (6) reported 18 inquiries in MPH box and 4 from Webmaster box for last week. They have all been forwarded to ECIMS. I am not aware of any inquiries via the Ask Karen chat service.

3/5-3/12 Hotline inquires = 24

3/5-3/11 MPH and webmaster box 22

3/5-3/11 Ask Karen = 28

**Total 74**

**Total 50 email inquiries and 24 Hotline inquiries since last Monday**

Diane's recommendation to tell callers we will note their concerns in our database helped diffuse those really irate callers tremendously making our job a bit easier.

I don't think I will be reporting on this anymore unless I hear otherwise or something changes significantly.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) **RD RN**

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: AMS Budget Hearing Intel  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 4:21:10 PM

---

Ok, thanks. Brian (Mabry, right?) has been there for both already? If so, I'll let him lead.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 3:33 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: AMS Budget Hearing Intel

Well, (b) (6) wasn't at the last hearing prep, so there would be no continuity there. I would recommend you or Brian, frankly. But if not, then Atiya should.

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 3:31 PM  
**To:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: AMS Budget Hearing Intel

Who's leading the hearing prep meeting tomorrow? Ashlee or Atiya? Just for continuity...

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884

Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 3:29 PM  
**To:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Naessens, Katie - OSEC; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC; Almanza, Al - FSIS; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Khan, Atiya - FSIS  
**Subject:** AMS Budget Hearing Intel

Just FYI that the intelligence I got from today's AMS hearing was that Kingston, not Farr, asked about the hatcheries bill. Questions like: which agency would handle it, what kind of phase-in would there be, etc. You obviously already know that we're aware of the legislation and we're still looking at it, but I thought it was interesting that it came from Kingston and not Farr, a cosponsor of the measure. The so-called "pink slime" issue did not come up for them, which is interesting as well – that one could nonetheless come up with us, and it may be worth reviewing that tomorrow. (b) (6) food safety-related questions for AMS were mostly related to animal ID and the safety of fruits and veggies with regards to some of AMS's programs.

Hoping this is helpful –

Christopher Gould

Congressional & Public Affairs Office

USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service

202-690-4546 (desk)

202-365-0186 (cell)

202-720-5704 (fax)

Be Food Safe:

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often    **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature    **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

From: [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#)  
To: [\(b\) \(6\) - AMS](#); [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
Subject: RE: AMS project and more  
Date: Thursday, March 22, 2012 5:49:06 PM

---

*Additionally,*

*We just finished our meeting with our AAs to brief them about the agenda and the arrangement for the meeting.*

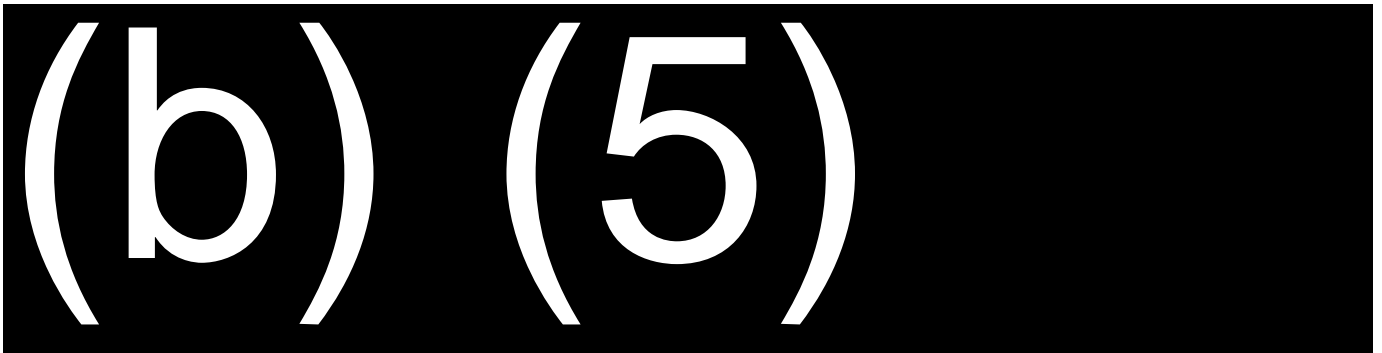
*Do you have an estimate on when we can get Craigs presentation!*

**2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Presentation, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Dr. Craig Morris, Deputy Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program. Food safety questions relating to ground beef purchase for the Federal Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs**

*Also, here is the disclaimer that we are working to keep the meeting under control and not get slimy and pink ☺!*

*This is a draft that is being worked on: not for further release at all.*

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*Will (b) (6) include some type of statement that will make a reference to the pink slime issue!*

*We will send you the final language/link, if FSIS decides to put up this disclaimer. You may then use similar language in your communications regarding the NACMCF-AMS charge – as/if applicable.*

*Thanks*

*Uday*



---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 5:36 PM  
**To:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: We want to acknowledge (b) (6) Heroic Effort on the AMS project

I appreciate the kind word on her performance.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 5:34 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** We want to acknowledge (b) (6) Heroic Effort on the AMS project

Hi (b) (6)

(b) (6) and I want to acknowledge the heroic work that (b) (6) is doing on the AMS-NACMCF project.

*Her commitment to this work and indepth knowledge about sampling and analytical issues is very impressive. We must mention that desipt losing her voice, she made her presence felt and steered the subcommittee in the right direction.*

*If you have any questionsl do give us a buzz.*

*Thanks*

*Uday*

*202 257 2923*

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 5:02:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12\(5\).docx](#)

---

Attached is the current that will go back into circulation tomorrow morning. Dan: I used some of your verbage below while I talked with (b) (6) in OGC. Thank you!!

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 4:14 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

Thanks (b) (6)

FYI, I'm not remembering how AMS defined LFTB in your purchase specification. However, it is important to note that the process to manufacture LFTB does not have to include the anhydrous ammonium treatment. LFTB is beef derived from low temperature rendering and centrifuging off excess fat -- with or without anhydrous ammonium treatment. There could be manufacturers of low temperature rendered beef other than BPI. Thus, if you are trying to be specific about the product that you want to limit in purchases, you might want to be more specific -- i.e., any low temperature rendered product or other product that appears to be "finely textured" (e.g., meat from advanced meat recovery or high pressure processing), as well as product subjected to anhydrous ammonium.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (202) 368-5457 -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:10 PM  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Cc:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

Phil:

I had your old email in my outlook. The attached is fyi. I will call in a second. We wanted to make sure you knew this was moving.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:09 PM  
**To:** Keeney, Robert - AMS; O'Connor, Tim - FNS; Derfler, Philip -FSIS (Philip.Derfler@usda.gov); Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - FNS;  
(b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** FW: AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

The attached Decision Memo went to our Agency's Controlled Correspondence office for delivery to the Administrator's Office for movement on from there.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** AMS-LS-2012-04--LFTB Decision Memorandum for the Secretary dated 03-12-12(v2)

FYI:

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#); [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Williams, Charles - FSIS](#); [Shaw, William - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 5:10:17 PM

---

Brian,

This is not regulatory but the Institutional Meat Purchase Specifications publication by AMS references the potential use of up to 20% LFTB as described below (this is taken from IMPS Item Number 136) <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELDEV3003281>

**Item No. 136 - Ground Beef** - Unless otherwise specified, ground beef may be derived from boneless meat which has been frozen and stockpiled. The purchaser may specify the maximum amount of frozen boneless meat that can be mixed with fresh-chilled meat prior to final grinding. All objectionable materials listed in the material requirements shall be removed. When specified by the purchaser, "finely textured beef", low temperature rendered beef that is processed from boneless beef trimmings, is allowed to be combined with boneless beef meeting the above material requirements provided it does not exceed 20 percent by weight of the combined finished product. When finely textured beef is used, the following criteria must be met:

**Criteria Description**

**Red Color**

The producer of finely textured beef shall assure that the product has a discernible redness in color. The finely textured beef shall maintain the same redness in color until the time of blending and grinding to minimize the effect of the color to the finished ground beef. Fat Content Does not exceed 10% fat.

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 5:04 PM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Right. I imagine the percentage used is mainly set by the customer requirements and tends to limit the amount of product used.

Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:59 PM

**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

However, it wouldn't be very marketable if it has too much, right?

-----

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 03:57 PM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Jeff,

Thanks much. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:54 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Brian,

There is no limit on how much FTB or LFTB may be used in meat products.

Jeff

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:51 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

All,

The maximum allowable percentage of LFTB that may be formulated into single servings of the ground beef purchased for the NSLP is 15 percent, but does FSIS set a percentage limit or range limit on LFTB incorporated for what can be sold commercially?

MSNBC is inquiring and I couldn't find it in the CFR, but wanted to double-check my work.

Thanks all! Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**

***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891

tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460

[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)

[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:41 PM

**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Brian, in case you need additional information to help solidify distinctions about LFTB and other products that do not meet equivalent nutrient content expectations (e.g., the fat, protein, and PER), look at 9 CFR 319.15(e) for Partially Defatted Beef Fatty Tissue. This product starts with fatty material, is subjected to low temperature rendering (e.g., no greater than 120 degrees Fahrenheit), and must result in product that has a pinkish color and a fresh odor and appearance. This product cannot be used unlimited, such as LFTB. This product is a beef byproduct (also defined in 9 CFR 301.2) and is explicitly derived from product that is other than meat. It is processed similarly as LFTB but is not "meat".

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA

Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250

Main Office -- (202) 205-0495

Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089

BlackBerry -- (202) 368-5457 -- emergency only

Fax -- (202) 720-2025

Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:25 PM

**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Subject:** Re: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Thanks! Saved some face for me there. Brian

Brian K. Mabry

Congressional and Media

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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tel. 202.720.9891 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 03:23 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Brian,

Meat food product is defined in 9 CFR 301.2.

Jeff

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:20 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Last minute fact check – is it Section 303? Or am I looking at an old version of the CFR?

Thanks~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
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direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 1:13 PM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

OPACE – From the write-up, what you should conclude is that the added measures for nutrient content (see below) ensure that the product is a valuable source of quality protein in the diet for this meat food product that is incorporated into meat products. These requirements are in addition to the steps taken to ensure that the product is microbiologically safe.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator  
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Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:42 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Dan,

Here is a summary paragraph

In the early 1990s, the meat industry began to apply low processing temperatures, e.g., 107° F, to boneless beef trimmings in order to further reduce the fat content. Because the temperature does not exceed 107° F, the proteins are not denatured during the process. Therefore, the product does not appear to have been heat treated and has similar performance characteristics as "meat." Thus, the Agency determined that it needed to develop a product category to distinguish this product from other low temperature rendered products such as Partially Defatted Chopped Beef (PDCB). In 1991, FSIS developed a policy for this product which was identified as finely textured beef (FTB) and lean finely textured beef (LFTB). The policy requires that the product: (1) cannot exceed 30 percent fat (unless it is called "lean" whereby it cannot exceed 10% fat); (2) must contain a minimum of 14 percent protein, and (3) must have a protein efficiency ratio (PER), a measure of protein quality, of 2.5. These criteria were established to ensure that FTB and LFTB were compositionally similar to beef. FTB and LFTB may be declared as "beef" in the ingredients statement of standardized and non-standardized products in which it is used as an ingredient.

Jeff  
Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W. – Stop 5273  
Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor – Cubicle 161A  
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Fax: (202) 245-4792

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---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:15 PM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Ros/Jeff, please provide a statement that summarizes the nutrient and protein quality expectations



for this product.

---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 09:48 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

I'm not clear exactly what the question is.

But Chuck, Bill, Dan please weigh in:

Trim clearly meets the definition of meat or meat food product in the regs. FSIS inspects the product to ensure it is not adulterated.

We've already provided information on why FSIS allows the ammonium hydroxide treatment.

Anything else we can add?

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:28 AM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

Rachel has a voicemail messages from both Dirk and me so I thought I would try to bring everyone together even though folks are spread out between hearings and other events right now.

Last night, ABC news ran a piece on LFTB – the link is below in case you missed it:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

**As a follow up, OC got a note from ABC today asking, in part: what's the justification for this being classified as food? And is that a classification that's under review?**

Would CPAO be correct to just refer to the CFR for the definition of meat, and look at LFTB as an enhanced form of Mechanically Recovered meat? The previous questions we have dealt with on LFTB seemed to mostly focus on the Ammonium hydroxide treatment, not on the process of the meat itself.

I just wanted to make sure I didn't go down the wrong path. Thanks for any guidance or a SME to talk with. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Williams, Charles - FSIS](#); [Shaw, William - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 5:05:37 PM

---

That is correct.

Jeff

---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:59 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: ABC News Inquiry - LFTB as "food"

However, it wouldn't be very marketable if it has too much, right?

-----

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: ABC News Request  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:19:21 AM

---

I don't think we are sending anyone on camera in the near future. Let's talk about how we tackle the collagen part or if we get stakeholders to weigh in.

----- Original Message -----

From: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 06:41 AM  
To: Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Subject: Re: ABC News Request

I recommend that the dept statement also clarify the misinformation out there that this stuff is collagen and connective tissue, if we can clarify that. If the central issue is whether it's beef, then I think most people would think collagen and connective tissue isn't "meat" and I think we could do ourselves a disservice if we don't clarify that know that's what the critics keep trying to argue. (I will look up the Safeway announcement once I get in the office, but I assume they're labeling product as having lftb, and I think we should avoid the ammonia issue to the extent possible. We will lose that argument for much the same reasons we start off behind the curve once critics utter the phrase "pink slime"). Just my thoughts.

----- Original Message -----

From: Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 06:32 AM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Subject: Fw: ABC News Request

Aaron,

Based on last night's call, assume this is too soon and wrong person to talk on this issue. We can discuss later today, but wanted to get Carol and Dirk in the loop before the rest of the A team (b) (6) ).

Best ~ Brian

Brian K. Mabry  
Congressional and Media  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Please Note New Direct Dial  
tel. 202.720.9891 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)

----- Original Message -----

From: Hartman, Brian [<mailto:Brian.Hartman@abc.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 05:52 AM  
To: Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
Subject: ABC News Request

Hi.

I read Dr. Hagen's interview in Food Safety News and I've been asked to request that she speak with ABC News on camera regarding the labeling of LFTB. Interest has been renewed in this because of an announcement from Safeway.

[REDACTED]

Thanks for the consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ABC N [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

84

[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ABC news  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:56:47 AM

---

Good to know. Thanks!

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:49 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** ABC news

Info from ABC news:

ABC News emailed the top 10 grocery chains in America. Only Publix, Costco, HEB and Whole Foods responded, saying they don't use pink slime. No word yet from the rest.

If your meat is stamped USDA Organic, it's pure meat with no filler.

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

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or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

**From:** [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Thaler, Alice - FSIS](#); [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: About Pink Slime - heads-up wrt NACMCF plenary session  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 8:10:20 AM

---

Good morning Boss

If you have time this morning during your 8:30 AM meeting, you may want to bring this item to David's attention.

As you know, from NACMCF end we have things under control and no action from AAs is required at this time. This is just for heightened awareness at OPHS AAs level (wrt impact on NACMCF plenary session).

Thx much

Uday Dessai

202 257 2923

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

---

**From:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 17, 2012 12:21 PM  
**To:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Thaler, Alice - FSIS; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Cc:** Thomas-Sharp, Karen - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: About Pink Slime - heads-up wrt NACMCF plenary session

Hi (b) (6)

Here is a follow-up on the NACMCF plenary session and the pink slime issue

1. As you know there has been a wide media coverage on this issue and we have received emails regarding this issue (including some hostile ones). We have been working with OPACE on this issue. Cited below is an example of the email that Karen received -

• **From:** Monifa, MomsRising.org [\[mailto:info@momsrising.org\]](mailto:info@momsrising.org)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:02 PM  
**To:** Thomas-Sharp, Karen - FSIS  
**Subject:** Green Eggs and Pink Slime

•

• **Urge USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide not to buy it!**

•

• [Take Action](#)

• Dear Karen,

• *Will you eat them here or there?* We all love Sam-I-Am's rhythmic attempt to encourage others to eat strange green food. And when the green eggs are finally eaten, it's hilarious! But moms and dads aren't laughing about feeling trapped in a storybook where it's Uncle Sam who is endorsing a food that we do not want to eat.

• And, what do we want to eat less than green eggs? **Pink Slime** – a food additive made from spare beef trimmings that's treated with ammonium hydroxide to kill off E. Coli, salmonella, and other possible bacteria, is in grocery stores, cafeterias, and restaurants across the nation.[1] In fact, one article noted, "ABC cited a former U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist in saying that 70% of supermarket ground beef contained the additive." [2]

• Our families deserve to eat high quality foods--and pink slime is most definitely NOT on our list of good eats.

• **\*Join us in urging USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least to require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide not to buy it in the stores:** <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3188.398211.NS4Mc&t=5>

• **And more.....** (email is appended at this point)

2. USDA has responded as follows about the safety and choice for school districts to purchase this product

a. [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&edeployment_action=retrievecontent)

[contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&edeployment\\_action=retrievecontent](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&edeployment_action=retrievecontent)

**However -**

3. There seems to be public misconception about the NACMCF plenary session and its intent. We have some 30+ individuals (public) already registered to attend this meeting.

**We are taking the following steps -**

4. Gerri has already scheduled a meeting to brief Elisabeth on this issue in the context of the plenary session and we will develop specific language for Elisabeth that will clarify the focus of the plenary session.

5. We will work with AMS to have similar language included in their remarks about the charge to NACMCF. This item will be after Elisabeth's opening remarks

6. Gerri and Karen are working on getting a secure telephone line with an operator interface. This approach will allow us complete control on this meeting, given that there is no inperson component to this meeting.

7. We will explore with OPACE if additional communications to clarify the intent of the public meeting may be required

Gerri and I will brief you on these issues and plans before meeting with Elisabeth.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me or Gerri as needed.

Thanks much!

Uday

---

**From:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 6:02 PM

**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Thaler, Alice - FSIS; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS

**Cc:** Thomas-Sharp, Karen - FSIS

**Subject:** About Pink Slime - headsup

*Hi David, (b) (6) and Alice*

*As discussed with you earlier today, this issue has the potential to distract our AMS plenary session on the 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*I am headed out now and will get back to my laptop later in the evening or first thing tomorrow.*

*Thanks much*

*Uday*



**From:** [Carpenter, Janice - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Accomplishment reports  
**Date:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 2:59:07 PM

---

Thanks.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 2:32 PM  
**To:** Carpenter, Janice - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Accomplishment reports  
**Importance:** High

<< File: (b) (6) Accomplishment Report 2011.docx >>

Hi Janice,

Forwarding you a copy of my revised accomplishment report to include new information.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1170-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (202) 720-7609*

*Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)*

*"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 2:15 PM  
**To:** Carpenter, Janice - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Accomplishment reports  
**Importance:** High

Hi Janice,

Per your request, since 9-20, I had 4 more letter signed. This brings my total to 126 Congressional and Non-Congressional letters, and 25 pink slime letters. The pink slime

letters were assigned to me and I created a folder in ECM individually for each one. This brings my total to 151 letters signed for FY 2011.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) Issues Analyst

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1170-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

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Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

*"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 28, 2011 11:21 AM

**To:** Carpenter, Janice - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Accomplishment reports

Hi Janice,

Since 9-20, I had 4 more letters signed, which brings my total from 147 to 151.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) Issues Analyst

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1170-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

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Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

*"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"*

---

**From:** Carpenter, Janice - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 28, 2011 9:29 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** Accomplishment reports

For your Accomplishment Report, I need the number of letters completed in FY 2011.

Thanks, Janice

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Activity Forward  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:05:46 PM

---

Thanks, [\(b\) \(6\)](#)

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk\\_fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk_fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** [\(b\) \(6\)](#) [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:03 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Activity Forward



### Pink Slime

**Peggy Moyer, a reporter for KELO-Land ABC News in Sioux Falls, called requesting an interview to discuss Pink Slime with someone at USDA. She is hoping to do something pre-recorded, on-camera or by phone, to find out what is, how it's produced, and if it poses a threat.**

**She is available at (605) 838-8544 or [pmoyer@keloland.com](mailto:pmoyer@keloland.com)**

**Her deadline is ASAP as she's filing for the 5 PM CT news**

Subject	Date	Contact / Outlet
Pink Slime	03/28/2012	Peggy Moyer  <i>KELOLAND News at 5 PM - KELO-TV</i>

[\(b\) \(6\)](#) 03/28/2012 11 59 AM (GMT -4:00):

Peggy Moyer, a reporter for KELO-Land ABC News in Sioux Falls, called requesting an interview to discuss Pink Slime with someone at USDA. She is hoping to do something pre-recorded, on-camera or by phone, to find out what is, how it's produced, and if it poses a threat.

She is available at (605) 838-8544 or [pmoyer@keloland.com](mailto:pmoyer@keloland.com)

Her deadline is ASAP as she's filing for the 5 PM CT news



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Agency definition of wholesome [Incident: 120322-000016]  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:02:25 PM

---

Atkins diet, lots of protein

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Agency definition of wholesome [Incident: 120322-000016]

“the meaning that applies within the context of FSIS inspection is 'promoting health of body.'”

How do fried pork skins promote health of body?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:59 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Agency definition of wholesome [Incident: 120322-000016]

No definition leaves us wiggle room to put in what we like

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Agency definition of wholesome [Incident: 120322-000016]

Check out this Q&A exchange with AskFSIS.

I wanted to know the agencies official definition of the term “wholesome” after hearing their official response to the “pink slime” controversy.

The agency in their official response stated that lean finely textured beef or “pink slime”, as it has been called, is “safe and wholesome”.

I agree it is probably safe but wholesome on the other hand is open to debate. Wholesome can be a rather subjective or ambiguous term that is open to interpretation.

Lean finely textured beef and mechanically separated species (poultry) in my opinion are not at all wholesome. I won't knowingly eat them.

Lastly I find it alarming that the agency does not have an official definition for the term wholesome when they use it frequently and they incorporate it as the centerpiece of the poultry inspection legend.

---

**From:** FSIS Policy Development Division [mailto:pdd@custhelp.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:30 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Agency definition of wholesome [Incident: 120322-000016]

Recently you requested personal assistance from our on-line support center. Below is a summary of your request and our response.

Thank you for allowing us to be of service to you.

To update this question by email, please reply to this message. Because your reply will be automatically processed, you MUST enter your reply in the space below. Text entered into any other part of this message will be discarded.

[====> Please enter your reply below this line <====]

[====> Please enter your reply above this line <====]

[To access your question from our support site, click here.](#)

## Subject

Agency definition of wholesome

## Discussion Thread

### Response Via Email (PDD Staff Officer)

03/22/2012 09:30 AM

FSIS does not define the term 'wholesome. This link describes FSIS policy for Terms with No Official Definition - [http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/1470](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1470). The Merriam-Webster Dictionary provides several meaning for the term 'wholesome.' the meaning that applies within the context of FSIS inspection is 'promoting health of body.' That meaning does not work well as a criterion for making a disposition on product.

The standard for making a disposition on product listed in the statutes and regulations is the term 'adulterated.' You will find this term defined in 9 CFR 301.2, 9 CFR 381.1(b), and 9 CFR 590.5. If a product is adulterated it is not wholesome. However, it is possible for a product to be not adulterated and be not wholesome.

### Auto-Response

03/22/2012 09:17 AM

Your message has been received at the FSIS Policy Development Division (PDD) and will be assigned to a staff specialist for response.

Our goal is to provide an accurate response as quickly as possible—in most instances, this will be within two working days. Some questions, however, require extensive research and will take longer to answer. If you would like to know the status of your question, you can telephone PDD for additional discussion at 1-800-233-3935 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. Please refer to the incident reference number below when calling for clarification.

The reference number for your question is 120322-000016.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119902/username/paul.pospishek@fsis.usda.gov](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119902/username/paul.pospishek@fsis.usda.gov)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Policy Development Division.

### Customer By Web Form (Paul Pospishek)

03/22/2012 09:17 AM

How does the agency define the term wholesome?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Agency definition of wholesome [Incident: 120322-000016]  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:06:20 AM

---

(b) (6)

You are correct; I also could not find a definition for "wholesome" although the definition of "adulterated" is extensive. I did, however, find this definition in the FMIA:

(k) The term "capable of use as human food" shall apply to any carcass, or part or product of a carcass, of any animal, unless it is denatured or otherwise identified as required by regulations prescribed by the Secretary to deter its use as human food, or it is naturally inedible by humans.

(b) (6), DVM  
Frontline Supervisor  
San Francisco, CA  
Circuit 0519  
(b) (6) BBY  
(b) (6) Ofc  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:49 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Agency definition of wholesome [Incident: 120322-000016]

Dr, (b) (6)

Check out this Q&A exchange with AskFSIS.

I wanted to know the agencies official definition of the term "wholesome" after hearing their official response to the "pink slime" controversy.

The agency in their official response stated that lean finely textured beef or "pink slime", as it has been called, is "safe and wholesome".

I agree it is probably safe but wholesome on the other hand is open for debate. Wholesome can be a rather subjective or ambiguous term that is open to interpretation.

Lean finely textured beef and mechanically separated species (poultry) in my opinion are not at all wholesome. I won't knowingly eat them.

Lastly I find it alarming that the agency does not have an official definition for the term wholesome when they use it so frequently and they incorporate it as the centerpiece of the poultry inspection legend.

**From:** [Stevens, Janet - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mayes, Carl - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 12:34:50 PM

---

Sigh. That's so depressing.

Best Regards,  
Janet

Janet B. Stevens, PMP  
Chief Information Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA  
[Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov)  
Phone: 202-205-9950 | Fax: 202-690-3903 | Cell: (b) (6)

Visit the FSIS Web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

FSIS Employees, visit your intranet site, InsideFSIS: <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov>

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the Service Desk:  
<http://service/footprints> or call 1-800-473-9135.

Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other personal data assistant or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1-(800) 473-9135.

----- Original Message -----

From: Mayes, Carl - FSIS  
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 11:34 AM  
To: Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
Subject: Re: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services

I'm just hoping the people we had do this last time remember how we did it.

Carl

----- Original Message -----

From: Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 11:32 AM  
To: Mayes, Carl - FSIS  
Subject: Re: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services

Dale has responded, so hopefully at least that front is covered.

Best Regards,  
Janet

Janet B. Stevens, PMP  
Chief Information Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA  
[Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov)  
Phone: 202-205-9950 | Fax: 202-690-3903 | Cell: 202-465-6769



Visit the FSIS Web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

FSIS Employees, visit your intranet site, InsideFSIS: <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov>

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the Service Desk: <http://service/footprints> or call 1-800-473-9135.

Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other personal data assistant or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1-(800) 473-9135.

----- Original Message -----

From: Mayes, Carl - FSIS  
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 11:26 AM  
To: Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
Subject: Re: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services

Janet,

Thanks

Carl

----- Original Message -----

From: Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 10:15 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Cc: Mayes, Carl - FSIS  
Subject: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services

All,

I was just made aware of a new online petition to ask USDA (meaning FSIS and AMS) to stop using "pink slime" in school lunches. There is the potential for increased website and email volume for our infrastructure. A similar change.org petition to Secretary Vilsack and 4 other USDA officials was posted on 3/6/12 and gathered more than 11,000 signatures in 3 days.

The petition to stop the "pink slime" can be found at: [http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink\\_slime/](http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink_slime/). We will likely be asked to set up a rule on some senior executives' Outlook accounts to autoforward to folder. Please be vigilant for VIP requests in regards to the petition as well as potential impacts to the infrastructure. Please escalate any requests or issues to Carl and me immediately throughout the weekend and next week.

Best Regards,  
Janet

Janet B. Stevens, PMP  
Chief Information Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA  
[Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov)  
Phone: 202-205-9950 | Fax: 202-690-3903 | Cell: 202-465-6769

Visit the FSIS Web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

FSIS Employees, visit your intranet site, InsideFSIS: <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov>

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the Service Desk: <http://service/footprints> or call 1-800-473-9135.

**From:** (b) (6) @aol.com  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: all non meat grinding technologys gone  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:58:57 PM

---

thanks RAE

Your response is important. CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail communication, and any documents, files or e-mail messages attached to it, may contain confidential information that is legally privileged. Do not read this document if you are not the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of any of the information contained in or attached to this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you have received this document in error, please immediately notify us at (b) (6) @aol.com or by telephone at 559-217-5071. If you are unable to forward this document to the intended recipient, destroy the document and its attachments without reading or saving in any manner. Thank you.

(b) (6) Rae McFarland Senior Wellness, Science and Professional Food Technologist 1-559-217-5071 www.avispatech.com

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS <Jeff.Canavan@fsis.usda.gov>  
**To:** (b) (6) @aol.com; (b) (6) @aol.com  
**Sent:** Thu, Mar 29, 2012 4:44 pm  
**Subject:** Re: Fwd: all non meat grinding technologys gone

I can get you the right contact in the morning.  
Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPDP, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) @aol.com [mailto:(b) (6) @aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 04:13 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; "FSIS. labeling"@fsis.usda.gov <"FSIS. labeling"@fsis.usda.gov>; jeffcanovan@fsis.usda.gov <jeffcanovan@fsis.usda.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: all non meat grinding technologys gone

Thank you.

(b) (6) Rae McFarland Senior Wellness, Science and Professional Food Technologist 1-559-217-5071 www.avispatech.com

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) Rae McFarland <(b) (6) @aol.com>  
**To:** "Canavan; Jeff - FSIS" <Jeff.Canavan@fsis.usda.gov>  
**Sent:** Thu, Mar 29, 2012 12:46 pm  
**Subject:** Re: all non meat grinding technologys gone

Jeff. Thank you for your valuable guidance. I am preparing the information who in USDA can guide me to prepare the proper petition.

"Canavan, Jeff - FSIS" <Jeff.Canavan@fsis.usda.gov> wrote:

Your response is important. **CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This e-mail communication, and any documents, files or e-mail messages attached to it, may contain confidential information that is legally privileged. Do not read this document if you are not the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of any of the information contained in or attached to this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you have received this document in error, please immediately notify us at (b) (6) @aol.com or by telephone at 559-217-5071. If you are unable to forward this document to the intended recipient, destroy the document and its attachments without reading or saving in any manner. Thank you.

**(b) (6)** Rae McFarland Senior Wellness, Science and Professional Food Technologist 1-559-217-5071 [www.avispatech.com](http://www.avispatech.com)

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Rae,

Yes, consumer reaction is hard to anticipate. Although they are entirely different products, one difference between finely textured beef and mechanically separated chicken or pork is that it is labeled. Consumer complaints about finely textured beef appear to center around labeling.

If you want to change the agency's policy for the production of ground product, e.g., use of frames as starting material, we have said you should submit a petition to FSIS with data comparing your product current ground product.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

From: (b) (6)  
Sent:   
Subject: all non meat grinding technologys gone

I was in contact with USDA in Washington DC this morning on other another subject when the subject owas brought up about he paste technology exploding caused by the Pink Slime upheaval . When this Negative,ignorance, of of the news media misleads the Public, concern will move to all commercial available paste emulsions from Mechanically Deboned meat technology including Cozzine technology Beehive, Lima, etc,BPI and then only true meat grinders with constant pressure and large defect removal systems will be able to produce ground meat at different textures so in my mind the demand for the Nu'Edge Ground meat will come under great demand?? it is possible this is the break I have been anticipating and the demand for the Nu'Ege Raptor could be fantastic>>>>>>>>>>>>

Presently only retail cuts of poultry can be run through a meat grinder and must result in meat with defects under 1.4 mm in the largest diameter that is easy for the Nu'Ege technology to meat. Even very fine cut meat is not a cake batter like paste but truly ground. Even under an electronic microscope the meat particle are distinct while MSC is like billowing clouds with little or no mass of district meat pieces, Paste comes when the shear factor of true grinding are lost the the meat is beat against the dull hole edges and the corresponding feeding mechanisms is unable to shear against the damaged hole inlets?????. Your response is important. CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail communication, and any documents, files or e-mail messages attached to it, may contain confidential information that is legally privileged. Do not read this document if you are not the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of any of the information contained in or attached to this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you have received this document in error, please immediately notify us at (b) (6) or by telephone at 559-217-5071. If you are unable to forward it to the intended recipient, destroy the document and its attachments, and do not copy, reproduce, distribute, or save in any manner. Thank you. Archie Rae McFarland Senior Wellness, Science and Professional Food Technologist 1-559-217-5071 [www.avispattech.com](http://www.avispattech.com)

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**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: All quiet on the pink slime inquiry front tonight (so far).  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 8:44:26 PM

---

Understood.

----- Original Message -----

From: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 07:43 PM  
To: Gaffney, Neil - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
Subject: Re: All quiet on the pink slime inquiry front tonight (so far).

Thanks Neil. Remember that if we get calls, they go to the main OC line at 720-4623.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884 NOTE NEW NUMBER  
Cell: (202) 557-4736

----- Original Message -----

From: Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 07:39 PM  
To: Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
Cc: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Subject: All quiet on the pink slime inquiry front tonight (so far).

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: All the info I have on how to answer pink slime questions  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:42:11 PM

---

Thank you.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:31 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: All the info I have on how to answer pink slime questions

<< File: Signed copy of Carolyn Morgan Pink Slime 6816405.docx >>

Hi Linda,

Thanks so much for this information. As a courtesy, I wanted to share with you that Dan approved boiler plate language (see attached) that addresses Pink Slime inquiries. In April 2011, when the story aired on the Jamie Olivers Food Network Show, about using ammonia in beef, we received over 30 letters. I was assigned all the pink slime letters, and processed them as they came in. For your information, I created a pink slime folder on the Q:Drive entitled "Pink Slime-Jamie Olivers Food Network."

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (202) 720-7609

Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

*"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:54 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: All the info I have on how to answer pink slime questions

fyi

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1162-S  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: All the info I have on how to answer pink slime questions

Hi there.

We have begun fielding consumer calls about the issue of pink slime. Dirk gave me this terrific information below because of the media interest in the subject. As we know, once stories on the subject appear, calls and letters are sure to follow. Before you get into the response information below, here is what you should know or likely already know about the issue in general.

Pink slime is another term for ammoniated boneless beef trimmings or similar products, which some are arguing is not fit for human consumption. You may remember the issue ala Beef Products Inc. BPI allegedly increased the pH of beef trimmings by adding ammonium hydroxide to remove pathogens such as *E. coli* and *Salmonella*. Cargill uses it as an antimicrobial agent to lower pH. Most recently, McDonald's announced that it was no longer using it in its products.

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:05 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Subject:** All the info I have on how to answer pink slime questions

More than you wanted to know, or likely will need. Less is probably better in this case!

USDA would not allow products into commerce or especially into schools if we believed it was unsafe. All USDA beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program and other federal food and nutrition assistance programs must meet very high food safety standards, including stringent testing. Beef supplied by Beef Products, Incorporated for the school lunch program is not exempt from USDA's strict testing requirements."

(The questions below originally were submitted by a reporter, so constituents might not need this type of info)

**Question:**

**Does USDA continue to believe this product is safe? Why does USDA permit its use in beef purchased for school foods?**

**Answer:**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration as well as the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) considers ammonium hydroxide as "generally recognized as safe." FSIS reviewed the suitability of Beef Products, Inc.'s (BPI) use of ammonium hydroxide in order to assess its effectiveness in performing the intended technical purpose of use, at the lowest level necessary, and to ensure that the product is not adulterated or misleading to consumers. BPI provided data to both FDA and FSIS to satisfy these concerns regarding its use of ammonium hydroxide.

All USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) beef purchases for the NSLP and other Federal food and nutrition assistance programs meet very high food safety standards, which include stringent pathogen testing. Beef supplied by BPI for the NSLP is not exempt from AMS' strict pathogen testing requirements. Additionally, USDA has a zero tolerance for *Salmonella* and *E. coli* O157:H7 in all AMS beef purchases for the NSLP which includes testing both the raw materials and the finished product. Beef that tests positive for these organisms is rejected and is diverted from the Federal purchase program.



In order to ensure that the food provided to schools through the NSLP is safe and healthy, AMS requires the raw material supplier plants develop technical proposals, or written quality management procedures, that address their food safety strategy, including microbiological sampling procedures that address AMS purchase requirements. These technical proposals must be reviewed and approved by AMS before product is ever tested and supplied. In addition, these plants are audited quarterly by AMS for compliance with their documented quality management program. In order to provide a higher level of confidence in the system, AMS requires all finished products to be tested, using samples pulled under direct AMS supervision. Importantly, FSIS Inspectors are on duty during the plants approved hours of operation.

**Question:**

**Is USDA doing anything to respond to concerns about the product by schools, the food service industry, the public? If so, what?**

**Answer:**

USDA's food safety focus is on prevention. In fact, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced this year that it is establishing a zero tolerance policy for six additional strains of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC). In addition to *E. coli* O157:H7, which already is prohibited, raw ground beef, its components, and tenderized steaks found to contain the other strains we are declaring adulterants will also be prohibited from sale to consumers. USDA will launch a testing program to detect these dangerous pathogens and prevent them from reaching consumers in March 2012. Additionally, FSIS has announced its intentions to establish a new "test and hold" policy to require facilities to hold product until microbiological testing can determine it is safe to release into commerce. This policy will significantly reduce consumer exposure to unsafe meat products by prohibiting products from being distributed until FSIS test results for dangerous contaminants are known. Having this policy in place would have prevented 44 Class I recalls – one of which involved two illnesses – between 2007 and 2009. Ammonium hydroxide is effective in reducing the presence of harmful bacteria in raw beef, especially *E. coli* O157:H7, when used appropriately.

**Question:**

**How much of the ground beef purchased by USDA-AMS contains the BPI product?**

**Answer:**

This year, 111,556,000 pounds of ground beef have been contracted for the National School Lunch Program. Of that amount, BPI's product comprises approximately 7 million pounds – or approximately 6.5 percent. At no time will any ground beef finished product consist of more than 15 percent of Lean Fine Textured Beef.

**Question:**

**I understand that USDA-FSIS is developing fact sheets on ammonium hydroxide and other interventions. What is the intended audience of these fact sheets? Why is this being done? For what interventions are they being prepared and how were those selected?**

**Answer:**

FSIS is undertaking an initiative to develop plain language fact sheets about all the new technology applications that FSIS has reviewed and approved. These fact sheets are intended to provide general information about the new technology, including: How it is used in food processing, the approval process, how it works to kill pathogens. FSIS expects to complete the fact sheet when the new technology is approved and post the information to the FSIS webpage. For new technologies already approved, FSIS is in the process of prioritizing development of the fact sheets and expects to have the project completed later this fiscal year. FSIS will post the fact sheets as they are completed, not all at the same time.

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Cc:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: All the info I have on how to answer pink slime questions  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:53:08 PM

---

Linda, thank you. I appreciate both the heads up and helpful information.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1162-S  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: All the info I have on how to answer pink slime questions

Hi there.

We have begun fielding consumer calls about the issue of pink slime. Dirk gave me this terrific information below because of the media interest in the subject. As we know, once stories on the subject appear, calls and letters are sure to follow. Before you get into the response information below, here is what you should know or likely already know about the issue in general.

Pink slime is another term for ammoniated boneless beef trimmings or similar products, which some are arguing is not fit for human consumption. You may remember the issue ala Beef Products Inc. BPI allegedly increased the pH of beef trimmings by adding ammonium hydroxide to remove pathogens such as *E. coli* and *Salmonella*. Cargill uses it as an antimicrobial agent to lower pH. Most recently, McDonald's announced that it was no longer using it in its products.

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: All the info I have on how to answer pink slime questions  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:54:36 AM

---

Looking at all the information in the e-mail chains and Dirk's timeline this morning, will this work as a start (not to give out too much information)? Do you have anything else we could add (being a sensitive subject)? Not sure what we would say about guidelines. More info to come from OC.

Mr. Sanderson,

This is in response to your questions about pink slime—who authorized the use of pink slime and under what guidelines.

Pink slime is another term for ammoniated boneless beef trimmings or similar products.

USDA's food safety focus is on prevention. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service consider ammonium hydroxide as "generally recognized as safe." Ammonium hydroxide is effective in reducing the presence of harmful bacteria in raw beef, especially *E. coli* O157:H7, when used appropriately.

---

**From:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:03 PM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: All the info I have on how to answer pink slime questions

FYI

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Almost 4,500 campaign letters on new poultry processing  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:18:06 AM

---

Thanks for the heads-up. I'll be sure to bring a bottle of Advil to keep in my desk drawer.

(b) (6)  
Management Assistant  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD  
Risk, Innovations, and Management Division (RIMD)  
Patriots Plaza 3  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mailstop 3782  
Room 8-163B  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
(W) (b) (6)  
(F) 202-245-4793  
Email (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:16 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Almost 4,500 campaign letters on new poultry processing

In the past, we have had a couple that were over 100,000. And I think we are going to see a lot of write-ins on "pink slime" (ammonia in hamburger processing) and horse slaughter. It looks like an interesting rest of winter and spring!

(b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:13 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Almost 4,500 campaign letters on new poultry processing

It kills me to think about it. ☺

(b) (6)  
Management Assistant  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD  
Risk, Innovations, and Management Division (RIMD)  
Patriots Plaza 3  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mailstop 3782  
Room 8-163B  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
(W) (b) (6)  
(F) 202-245-4793

Email: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:09 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Westbrook, JaChea  
**Subject:** RE: Almost 4,500 campaign letters on new poultry processing

By the way, the last I heard, it was up to 8,800.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:09 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Almost 4,500 campaign letters on new poultry processing

Thank you, (b) (6)

(b) (6)  
Management Assistant  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD  
Risk, Innovations, and Management Division (RIMD)  
Patriots Plaza 3  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mailstop 3782  
Room 8-163B  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
(W) (b) (6)  
(F) 202-245-4793  
Email: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:06 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Almost 4,500 campaign letters on new poultry processing

Hi (b) (6)

We have two of the letters, but OES has the rest and is deciding if and how they will be responded to in terms of a campaign letter. I would suggest first contacting (b) (6), in OES. Her number is (b) (6).

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:59 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: Almost 4,500 campaign letters on new poultry processing

Good Morning,

Who can I speak to concerning my ability to get a hold of these campaign letters?

(b) (6)

Management Assistant

USDA, FSIS, OPPD

Risk, Innovations, and Management Division (RIMD)

Patriots Plaza 3

1400 Independence Avenue SW

Mailstop 3782

Room 8-163B

Washington, DC 20250-3700

(W) (b) (6)

(F) 202-245-4793

Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Williams, Charles - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 4:52 PM

**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Almost 4,500 campaign letters on new poultry processing

Dan –

Well, we in OPPD generally don't respond during the comment period to individual commenters. However, it would be all right to send an acknowledgement that we received a comment. (b) (6) can suggest appropriate words in this instance.

Regarding the handling of these form letters, we have in the past converted them to .pdf files and posted them on-line on [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), with electronic copies maintained in the docket room. RIMD can assist with this.

Chuck

Charles E. Williams

Director

Policy Issuances Division



Office of Policy and Program Development  
FSIS/USDA  
Phone: (202) 720-3885  
Fax: (202) 690-0486

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 4:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS; Williams, Charles - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Almost 4,500 campaign letters on new poultry processing

Thanks. when we are in rulemaking with a comment period, do you usually reply to form letter campaigns? We do need to ensure that the letters are being included in the public record for the docket. Do you provide to the docket room?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 03:03 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Almost 4,500 campaign letters on new poultry processing

The Department has received almost 4,500 campaign letters similar to the following.  
Who is the best contact to help me prepare a response to be used for all the campaign letters?

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

I urge you to drop the proposed New Poultry Inspection System. USDA should not be privatizing poultry inspection by allowing company employees to perform inspection tasks that are supposed to be done by USDA inspectors.

The HIMP pilot program that has been used to test this privatized model has never been independently evaluated and the little information that has been released shows that these plants run at high speeds and company employees are not able to enforce regulations. For example, the records show that bile, sores, scabs, feathers, and digestive tract tissue are often not being properly removed from chicken carcasses. And there has been no analysis done to show whether the plants in this program are producing food that is as safe as product from traditionally inspected plants.

I oppose any effort to take USDA inspectors away from inspecting meat and poultry. The job of protecting consumers should be done by government employees, as the law requires. Giving this critical responsibility to poultry companies is unacceptable.

Matt Mitchell

1000

OR 97266

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: alpaca postmortem  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 5:08:03 PM

---

Guinea Pigs are next. You know they are the new food source in Africa.

(They squeal & squeak louder than bunnies!)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 12:57 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: alpaca postmortem

Pink Slime, rabbits and now alpaca's – what could be next? Yea, we always treated Alpacas just like Llama's – looking for same common pathology. Looking for anything abnormal and call the Vet on a Suspect. We look for the same carcass defects like in elk, deer, buffalo, etc.

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@mt.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 1:47 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: alpaca postmortem

Hey (b) (6)

I saw this message from Vermont....

Made me wonder if something else is needed for alpaca? Hamilton Packing did some last week.

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@state.vt.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 11:44 AM  
**To:** (b) (6);

(b) (6)

**Subject:** alpaca postmortem

Hope everyone is enjoying this warm spring!

Friday question for you: do any of you do (or have done in the past) inspection of alpacas? We have a request for voluntary inspection, and I don't have any references for postmortem diseases, etc.

Can any of you point me in the right direction?

Thanks!

(b) (6), DVM  
Asst. State Veterinarian  
Head Of Service- Meat Inspection  
VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets  
116 State St.  
Montpelier, VT 05620  
(b) (6)

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** [McKean, Jennifer - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Amarillo  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:53:59 AM

---

Yes I think we need to hold off right now.

Jennifer Beasley-McKean, DVM

District Manager

Dallas District Office

1100 Commerce Street Rm 516

Dallas, TX 75242

(214) 767-1253

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:43 AM  
**To:** McKean, Jennifer - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Amarillo

Might be a moot point of breaking up that patrol in Amarillo now...saw the press release where BPI is suspending operations for 60 days and then going to re-evaluate if they will produce anymore product or not...the pink slime thing has everything on tilt...

(b) (6)

Supervisory Resource Management Analyst

USDA-FSIS Dallas District Office

1100 Commerce Street Room 516

Dallas Texas 75242

Voice: (b) (6)

Fax: 214-767-8230

Blackberry: (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonia in Meat "pink slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:00:40 PM

---

Actually, none from me today

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854  
or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:54 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Ammonia in Meat "pink slime" inquiries

Hi,

So far I counted:

2 calls, 7 emails, and 2 chats related to this issue.

If you received a chat or call related to this topic please and didn't record it under the topic "Additives" let me know so I can be sure to count it.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonia in Meat "pink slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:56:48 PM

---

I haven't gotten any today. Thanks for the help on the "Enders" case. I e mailed (b) (6) with the information.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:54 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Ammonia in Meat "pink slime" inquiries

Hi,

So far I counted:

2 calls, 7 emails, and 2 chats related to this issue.

If you received a chat or call related to this topic please and didn't record it under the topic "Additives" let me know so I can be sure to count it.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonia in Meat "pink slime" inquiries  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:15:10 PM

---

Thanks (b) (6)

I'm copying also Diane and (b) (6) on this:

Please (b) (6) information just below, as related to 'pink slime' questions

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 3:54 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Ammonia in Meat "pink slime" inquiries

Hi,

So far I counted:

2 calls, 7 emails, and 2 chats related to this issue.

If you received a chat or call related to this topic please and didn't record it under the topic "Additives" let me know so I can be sure to count it.

Thanks,

(b) (6)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonia or Ammonium Hydroxide used in meat to control bacteria  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:03:41 PM

---

Another email just came today, will forward to ECIMS.

“why do you allow meat packers to put pink slime meat in our hamburger. I know you will not answer this. you should be ashamed of your greedy selves”

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonia or Ammonium Hydroxide used in meat to control bacteria

Ok, thank you (b) (6)

Hope to get those talking points soon..

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff  
Meat and Poultry Hotline  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Tel: (b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:01 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonia or Ammonium Hydroxide used in meat to control bacteria

No calls, one chat that just ended without resolution. Not sure what happened as the caller just didn't respond. I thought the question was odd, she asked for the source of a photo about pink slime circulating on the internet. She never sent it, but I told her if it was a USDA photo it would be marked with the USDA logo and to contact the author of the article.

Then I thought I better ask if she was media but then I ended the call instead since she was not responding.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:59 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonia or Ammonium Hydroxide used in meat to control bacteria

Yes. I a got one call.

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonia or Ammonium Hydroxide used in meat to control bacteria

Have we got any calls or chats so far today related to ammonia or ammonium hydroxide,

or 'pinks slime?'

(b) (6)

## Technical Information Specialist

Meat and Poultry Hotline

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)  
- Commissioned Corps - FSIS

Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS

I guess it will be helpful to know if USDA is doing anything different about it.

## Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS

**Subject:** Ammonia or Ammonium Hydroxide used in meat to control bacteria

This topic came up last April with the Jamie Oliver Show, Food Revolution. (b) (6) sent us an email about it. I don't think we ever received talking points. I have a copy of a letter

sent from ECIMS to consumers about it but I don't know where it came from and I can't find it electronically in any of my files.

Does anyone else have a copy of those letters?

I have three of them, they have a stamped date on them (January 19, 2011, January 28, 2011 and October 06, 2010). They have some good information, and it was sent to consumers so I'm assuming it's cleared just not sure how up to date it is.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:04 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS

**Subject:**

Found this article from 2009- kind of interesting in regards to the use of Ammonia to kill bacteria in ground beef. I guess this issue is not new..

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/31/us/31meat.html?pagewanted=all>

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/ FSES

Room 2L244-C

5601 Sunnyside Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6) 410-903-3988 Fax: 301-504-2092

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Ask a food safety question in Spanish: [PregunteleKaren.gov](http://PregunteleKaren.gov)

Siguenos por Twitter! [http://twitter.com/USDAFoodSafe\\_es](http://twitter.com/USDAFoodSafe_es)

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En\\_Espanol/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En_Espanol/index.asp)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) -  
Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonia or Ammonium Hydroxide used in meat to control bacteria  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:07:08 PM

---

That chat is back 'on' and she's sending this link from the web:

<http://urbanlegends.about.com/od/fooddrink/ss/Mechanically-Separated-Chicken.htm>

..just FYI

I will see if she's with media possibly.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:01 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) -  
Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonia or Ammonium Hydroxide used in meat to control bacteria

No calls, one chat that just ended without resolution. Not sure what happened as the caller just didn't respond. I thought the question was odd, she asked for the source of a photo about pink slime circulating on the internet. She never sent it, but I told her if it was a USDA photo it would be marked with the USDA logo and to contact the author of the article.

Then I thought I better ask if she was media but then I ended the call instead since she was not responding.

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) -  
Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonia or Ammonium Hydroxide used in meat to control bacteria  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:23:31 PM

---

This is awful. The person who wrote this article is definitely looking for attention ☹

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:07 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) -  
Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonia or Ammonium Hydroxide used in meat to control bacteria

That chat is back 'on' and she's sending this link from the web:

<http://urbanlegends.about.com/od/fooddrink/ss/Mechanically-Separated-Chicken.htm>

..just FYI

I will see if she's with media possibly.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonia  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 8:16:04 AM  
**Importance:** High

---

Good Morning (b) (6)

Great! I love this strategy!!

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

*"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 11:24 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Ammonia  
**Importance:** High

(b) (6) – I assigned several near-identical ammoniated beef (i.e. “pink slime”) e-mails to you this morning. I think that, rather than create individual folders for each, we could bundle them all into one and handle this as a campaign response. That would save you, the reviewers, and our CCOs some time. Let’s talk about it when you return to the office early next week.

Thanks!

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service



1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1162-S  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Khan, Atiya - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Ammoniated Beef  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 2:56:04 PM

---

We may also be asked about that former FSIS employee, and why is it that we disagree with the advice of our own employees on the use of pink slime. Questions could be asked which blurs the line between what is nutritious and what is safe.

Brian, I'm not sure what to do with this information, exactly. It definitely should be mentioned at tomorrow's hearing prep, though there doesn't really appear to be any **\*new\*** information for talking points. What do you think?

Christopher Gould

Congressional & Public Affairs Office

USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service

202-690-4546 (desk)

202-365-0186 (cell)

202-720-5704 (fax)

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often   **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature   **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Khan, Atiya - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 1:52 PM  
**To:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Subject:** Ammoniated Beef

The main issue raised in today's [Huffington Post](#) article regarding pink slime is that the USDA is purchasing 7 million pounds of the "slime" for school lunches from BPI. Another sub-issue raised is that the beef products used to make pink slime are beef trimmings which the author defines as product that is a ground-up combination of beef scraps, cow connective tissues and other beef trimmings that are treated with ammonium hydroxide. A former FSIS employee is quoted in the article, stating that pink slime was originally referred to as solvent pink was "objected to because it used connective tissues...[and] was simply not nutritionally equivalent to [ground beef]."

The issue of the purchase of this meat from BPI is obviously not our issue. But, we may be asked about why we allow establishments to put this poor quality meat into commerce, while McDonalds, Burger King and even Taco Bell have stopped using it. And do we consider such meat to be safe for consumption?

Here are our talking points on ammoniated beef:

- FSIS and FDA consider ammonia to be safe and suitable for use in beef products.
- Some establishments under FSIS' jurisdiction use ammonia to reduce foodborne pathogens as part of their HACCP plans. The FDA evaluates safety of food ingredients, such as ammonia, and FSIS determines suitability of use.
- FSIS no longer exempts from routine FSIS testing any beef product treated with ammonia.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

- On December 31, 2009, *New York Times* published an article on Beef Products, Inc. (BPI), a company that uses ammonia to reduce pathogens in its beef products. BPI also contracts with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service to provide beef products for the National School Lunch Program and has been subject to AMS pathogen testing.
  - BPI initially demonstrated that its product was receiving a full lethality treatment for *E. coli* O157:H7 and FSIS exempted the product from routine testing, but when AMS test results from BPI revealed that the establishment was not consistently achieving full lethality in the product, testing by FSIS was resumed.
  - This determination was made after an in-plant investigation conducted by FSIS, found that BPI was implementing an ammoniation process that differed from the process parameters included in its supporting documents from 2007. This in-plant investigation was initiated as part of the Agency's normal surveillance system after AMS' positive test results alerted FSIS to a potential issue at the establishment. FSIS notified BPI of its decision to stop exempting this product from routine testing with a December 2009 letter to their attorney.
  - On January 15, 2009, FSIS issued Notice 07-10 to provide instructions to FSIS inspection program personnel on how to implement routine sampling for *E. coli* O157:H7 in all ammoniated beef products. This Notice serves two purposes: 1) to cancel the practice of granting exemptions to establishments that produce ammoniated beef and 2) to instruct personnel on how to sample the ammoniated products. So while BPI's exemption was revoked with a letter from FSIS on Dec. 8, 2009, the Notice prohibits future exemptions for establishments using ammonia in their products.
-

Atiya Khan  
Legislative Analyst

Congressional & Public Affairs Office  
FSIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
202-205-3826 (phone); 202-690-0460 (fax)

202-510-5710 (cell)  
[atiya.khan@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:atiya.khan@fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often   **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature   **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron](#)  
**To:** [DeJong, Justin](#); [Kriviski, Diane - FNS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [O'Connor, Tim - FNS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Ammoniated Beef  
**Date:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:38:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

Per the Hawaii inquiry from last week it was my understanding that FNS was drafting a response to the state agency in that case. We should use the same response for all school, local, state, etc inquiries. What is the status of that response? You may want to check with Bruce as I sent him multiple emails on this.

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 8:10 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FNS; Alexander, Bruce - FNS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; O'Connor, Tim - FNS; DeJong, Justin; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - Seattle TV station report and question from States re pink slime in USDA Foods

I have messaging for (b) (6) on this and will send over. Has someone already responded to the state agency on this? Please clear the language going to the state with OC and OSEC before it is sent. We have been handling these inquiries through FSIS.

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 05:04 PM  
**To:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Lavallee, Aaron  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Seattle TV station report and question from States re pink slime in USDA Foods

Bruce – The highlighted statement below is all that I've seen -- it's in the attached.

Dirk Fillpot at AMS (contact info in the e-mail above) may have more detailed information.  
– Rich

---

**From:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 5:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; O'Connor, Tim - FNS  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT - Seattle TV station report and question from States re pink slime in USDA Foods  
**Importance:** High

(b) (6)

Do we have any talking points for (b) (6) on this subject – he will be in WA Monday? I will pose the same question to AMS because I think they fielded this query.

Bruce

**Bruce C. Alexander**  
**Director, Communications & Governmental Affairs**  
**U.S. Department of Agriculture - Food & Nutrition Service**  
**3101 Park Center Drive**  
**Alexandria, VA 22302**  
**(703) 305-2281 (office)**  
**[Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov)**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 5:11 PM  
**To:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** URGENT - Seattle TV station report and question from States re pink slime in USDA Foods  
**Importance:** High

Bruce,

I'm not sure if this statement came from AMS or FNS. However, since (b) (6) will be at a school event on Monday in Seattle, he may get this question.

The Hawaii State agency wants to know is, does USDA Food (ground beef) contain an ammonia-based solution, known as "pink slime"?

Excerpt from article: In a statement, the USDA said that school lunch-approved meat is always safe – but offered no particular insight on the ammonia-based solution: "All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations."

Here's the article:

**Q 13 FOX TV**

---

**From:** DeJong, Justin  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:33 AM  
**To:** O'Connor, Tim - FNS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; Lavallee, Aaron; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammoniated Beef

Good question. FSIS has been handling, but looping others for thoughts on how we moved forward with questions received by FNS... Thoughts Aaron and Dirk?

**Justin DeJong**  
Deputy Director, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.690.0548  
USDA Cell: 202.251.3309  
[justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov](mailto:justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov)  
<http://www.usda.gov>

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---

**From:** O'Connor, Tim - FNS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:11 AM  
**To:** DeJong, Justin  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** Ammoniated Beef

Justin

We have the talking points, etc that were put together in response to the ammoniated beef issue. We are starting to get inquiries from schools, etc about the whole thing. Is there a protocol in place for handling these inquiries? These are not written but phone calls. We would like to go ahead and address any concerns that folks raise - and prefer that we talk with the schools community about it rather than others. If that is ok we will go ahead. If there are any unique issues that start to emerge we will let folks know.

Tim O'Connor

Associate Administrator, Special Nutrition Programs  
703-305-2052

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: ammoniated beef  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 5:16:47 AM

---

They didn't discuss mechanically separated chicken that is used in nuggets? Bet it wouldn't have been pretty either.

(b) (6) DVM  
FLS Plover Circuit  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)  
Sent from BlackBerry

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 09:09 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** ammoniated beef

There was a segment on the radio today about ammoniated beef going to the school lunch program. Former FSIS microbiologist Carl Custer and another former FSIS microbiologist whose name escaped me called it "Pink Slime", and did not deem it fit for the nation's youths. It was not a pretty segment.

Dr. (b) (6)

Frontline Supervisor, Eau Claire Circuit

USDA FSIS OFO Madison District

2810 Crossroads Drive Suite 3500

Madison, WI 53718-7969

(b) (6)

(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Ammoniated beef  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:54:12 PM

---

Thanks – I did see that D/S (b) (6) had made a statement this a.m. while in AZ, but not much else.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW. • Room 1166 • Washington D.C. 20250  
(b) (6) (W) • (202) 720-7609 (F) • (b) (6) (C)  
e-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**Be Food Safe.** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammoniated beef

Nothing to add from me. We have been repeating the same paragraph and linking to the press release.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:15 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Subject:** Ammoniated beef

Hi:

We're responding to a letter from Congressman Steve King, Tom Latham, and Leonard Boswell, for the Sec'y's signature, which asks that the Sec'y "engage the full force of the USDA to ensure that consumer choice is driven by facts, and not misinformation in the public media" with regard to pink slime.

The gist of the letter will address the need for choice in the School lunch program, but wondered if we had taken any media or constituent action on pink slime, in addition to Dr. Hagen's recent blog. Would greatly appreciate any info – and apologize for not being more aware. I've been involved in other assignments and have likely missed things that are quite obvious. Please let me know if you have any questions – this letter will go into clearance tomorrow.

Thanks, as always.

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst

USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff

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**Be Food Safe.** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [Khan, Atiya - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Ammoniated Beef  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 3:22:15 PM

---

First, the easier part – on the third bullet, could we instead say:

(b) (5)

Let me re-read today's clips and also the comments on the story but I totally agree – we need to be prepared for questions. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 2:56 PM  
**To:** Khan, Atiya - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammoniated Beef

We may also be asked about that former FSIS employee, and why is it that we disagree with the advice of our own employees on the use of pink slime. Questions could be asked which blurs the line between what is nutritious and what is safe.

Brian, I'm not sure what to do with this information, exactly. It definitely should be mentioned at tomorrow's hearing prep, though there doesn't really appear to be any **\*new\*** information for talking points. What do you think?

Christopher Gould

Congressional & Public Affairs Office

USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service

202-690-4546 (desk)

202-365-0186 (cell)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Ammonium Hydroxide Fact Sheet 22DEC11.doc  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:16:13 PM

---

It has been changed by RIMD and is in clearance with OPPD

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:10 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** Ammonium Hydroxide Fact Sheet 22DEC11.doc

<< File: Ammonium Hydroxide Fact Sheet 22DEC11.doc  
>>

(b) (6) would you know if this fact sheet is in the clearance process? It seems we're getting an increasing number of calls now related to "pink slime."

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Phone: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet  
**Date:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:29:03 PM

---

I just agree with you and (b) (6) about including some sort of reference to “pink slime” and ammonium hydroxide.

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** ammonium hydroxide fact sheet

Do you have any comments?

We should probably ask in the fact sheet, some of the questions we’ve been getting on the Hotline or to “Karen.” Why isn’t ammonium hydroxide labeled and what exactly is pink slime?

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet  
**Date:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 1:37:11 PM

---

I know, I'm lost too. I don't think he understands the purpose of our review.

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
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Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 1:08 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet

Huh????

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854  
or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet

No, these are just references that can be used, if needed.

Simple language would need to be extracted from these.

We would still need PDD or Labeling to work around the text to use – simple enough for consumers.

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet--examples/follow-up  
Date: Thursday, February 09, 2012 1:09:27 PM

---

(b) (6)

This type of language may help shed light about this topic to consumers:

*..One form of ammonia called ammonium hydroxide is sometimes used in processing foods like baked goods, cheeses, chocolates and some beef products — this is not the same type of ammonia in household cleaners."*

*.... ammonium hydroxide gas, which contains a minute fraction of ammonia to kill bacteria in lean beef trimmings, the company said.*

*...Ammonia is used extensively in the food industry, and it is found naturally in meat. Basically a mixture of water and ammonia, ammonium hydroxide is utilized in baked goods, cheeses, candy and other products, the International Food Information Council said.*

*..The Food and Drug Administration approved the chemical for various purposes. Regarding meat, ammonium hydroxide lowers the acidity, making it inhospitable for bacteria to grow and survive*

These, of course, came from an article found in meatpoultry.com and we would (definitely) need to check w/ our technical group for accuracy – (just examples)

<http://www.meatpoultry.com/News/News%20Home/Business/2011/12/Ammonium%20hydroxide%20technology%20shunned%20by%20key%20QSR%20chains.aspx>

When verified, and cleared, this information is accurate, transparent, and hopefully sheds light on a chemical normally used with foods,

though it has a terrible 'ring' to it.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:52 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet

No, these are just references that can be used, if needed.

Simple language would need to be extracted from these.

We would still need PDD or Labeling to work around the text to use – simple enough for consumers.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

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Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:50 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet



I don't feel the fact sheet should be very technical. They can always look up the directive.

Think simple.....

(b) (6)  
Food Safety Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854  
or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:35 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet

**Here are my comments:**

--(certainly we would have to look at these more closely if they are of interest for the fact sheet)--

- **According to CFR data Title 21, it's in the GRAS list (generally recognized as safe)**
- **According to FSIS Directive 7120.1, Rev. 9, there are no labeling requirements**
- **We can get more cleared language from PDD or Labeling Division**
- **According to Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Division of Toxicology (ATSDR):**

Some restrictions have been placed on levels of ammonium salts allowable in processed foods. FDA states that the levels of ammonia and ammonium compounds normally found in food do not pose a health risk.

Examples:

Maximum allowable levels in processed foods are as follows: 0.04–3.2% ammonium bicarbonate in baked goods, grain, snack foods, and reconstituted vegetables; 2.0% ammonium carbonate in baked goods, gelatins, and puddings; 0.001% ammonium chloride in baked goods and 0.8% in condiments and relishes; 0.6–0.8% ammonium hydroxide in baked goods, cheeses, gelatins, and puddings; 0.01% monobasic ammonium phosphate in baked goods; and 1.1% dibasic ammonium phosphate in baked goods, 0.003% in nonalcoholic beverages, and 0.012% in condiments and relishes

**Here are the references:**

- **FSIS Directive 7120.1, Rev. 9 (10/21/11)**

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISDirectives/7120.1.pdf>

- **Title 21: Food and Drugs**

**§ 582.1139 Ammonium hydroxide.**

(a) *Product.* Ammonium hydroxide.

(b) *Conditions of use.* This substance is generally recognized as safe when used in accordance with good manufacturing or feeding practice.

[PART 582—SUBSTANCES GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE](#)

[Subpart B—General Purpose Food Additives](#)

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=08bf44c38991798be946024b70583a36&rgn=div8&view=text&node=21:6.0.1.1.24.2.1.19&idno=21>

- **ASTDR --**

**PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT -- AMMONIA**

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp126-c1.pdf>

-----  
(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:12 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ammonium hydroxide fact sheet

My comments:

- The factsheet needs to mention "pink slime", that's what the consumer is hearing on the Internet and that's why they are calling.
- Why is ammonium hydroxide not listed on the label?
- How do I know if I purchased a product that has been processed with ammonia?

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

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or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** ammonium hydroxide fact sheet

Do you have any comments?

We should probably ask in the fact sheet, some of the questions we've been getting on the Hotline or to "Karen." Why isn't ammonium hydroxide labeled and what exactly is pink slime?

(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS/FSES  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
(office) (b) (6)  
(fax) 301-504-2092

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:48:10 AM

---

OK!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:43 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

Send me your home email to my home email, (b) (6) @sbcglobal.net.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:42 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

I didn't see anything about your friend (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:06 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

No, No, in No, did you like the email I send to your home email, you pulling over horse face and asking to look in the glove box for papers. Messed up (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:04 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

Too many ex-gal pals trying to track you down?!!!!!!!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

No way Jose! Visit my Dad and get out of there ASAP!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:58 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

Sounds like you are ready to move back!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:54 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

Yea, about 30,000 people. There building a new strip mall out northeast.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

That's a lot of jobs for the town to find work for.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

Yes it is Mr. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

That's too bad for the employees.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:39 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

## 236 jobs lost in Holcomb KS.

### BPI closes local plant amidst product scrutiny

Published 3/26/2012 in Breaking : Business

By JOSEPH JACKMOVICH  
jjackmovich@gctelegram.com

A local beef manufacturing plant that produces what's known in the industry as "lean, finely textured beef," but is referred to as "pink slime" by those seeking to have it banned, has stopped operations at its Holcomb plant, causing a loss of 236 local jobs.

Beef Products Inc., 3105 N IBP Road, announced Monday that it was closing its Holcomb, Amarillo, Texas, and Waterloo, Iowa plants. While company officials hope the closings are temporary, employees were informed Monday that the closing would be permanent to be in compliance with the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act. The company's Dakota Dunes, S.D. plant will continue operations.

According to BPI Corporate Administrator Rich Jochum, employees will receive full salary and benefits until May 25. Jochum said that the company had no timeline as to when it would know whether the closings would be permanent.

The company has been the subject of nationwide scrutiny due to its product, which uses meat trimmings separated from fat and treated with ammonia gas to be used as a meat filler in ground beef.

The ingredient has been used for years but recently became a target of activists seeking to have it banned from supermarkets and school lunches. The U.S. Department of Agriculture decided to allow school districts to stop using it. Some retail chains have pulled products containing it.

Read more: <http://www.gctelegram.com/news/BREAKING-NEWS--BPI-closing-3-26-12#ixzz1qFm2JmCe>

**From:** [McGraw, Mike](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: BPI press conference  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 6:00:07 PM

---

That's weeks away, but the sooner I have an answer, the better.  
Thanks

On Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 4:55 PM, Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS <[Dirk.Fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Dirk.Fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)> wrote:

I'll send your qs to folks who can start researching answers. When are you looking to run a story on that aspect of the issue? Thanks

---

**From:** McGraw, Mike [mailto:[mcgraw@kcstar.com](mailto:mcgraw@kcstar.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 04:41 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** BPI press conference

Dirk,

I just watched the BPI press conference re: pink slime and have a couple of questions:

A BPI official made the statement that 100 percent of their product was tested for e.coli (apparently by the company) before it left the plant and before further mixing with other ground beef products.

Is that true, to FSIS's knowledge?

What percent of all ground beef is e.coli-tested by FSIS?

And do we know what other companies, if any, test 100 percent of ground for e.coli?

If indeed, FSIS allows BPI to test 100 percent of their product for e.coli, then, Why did the USDA bar Creekstone Farms from testing all of their product for BSE when their customers (the Japanese) requested it?

Thanks,

--

Mike McGraw  
The Kansas City Star  
[816-234-4423](tel:816-234-4423)

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[REDACTED]

Mike McGraw

[REDACTED] ar

816-234-4423

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: BPI questions  
**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2012 4:48:49 PM

---

Sounds good - thanks.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 4:34 PM  
To: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Subject: RE: BPI questions

Thanks. Just off the top of my head, Custer is way off. JoAnn Smith was Under Secretary at the end of the Reagan Administration, 1988 or 1989, not in 2002. I don't know about Zirnstein. He worked in OPHS for a while and then got moved to OIA. He was not a happy camper. I do not know whether he ever went to a BPI plant in 2002. I don't think that we ever said that LTB is ground beef. We just said that it is cow meat because I think that you can show that what emerges from the BPI process is muscle tissue. We don't get the opportunity to judge the quality of the product if it meets the definition of meat. We can talk about this some more.

-----Original Message-----

From: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 4:13 PM  
To: Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
Subject: FW: BPI questions

Wanted you to be aware of an inquiry that OC received about BPI - this reporter seems to have a lot of info from former FSIS employees.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>



<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Lavallee, Aaron  
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 3:43 PM  
To: Ronholm, Brian; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Naessens, Katie; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Subject: Fw: BPI questions

See below.  
Let's connect on this first thing tomorrow

----- Original Message -----

From: Knowles, David [<mailto:David.Knowles@thedaily.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 02:39 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron  
Subject: BPI questions

Dear Aaron,

I've been asked to do another story on the BPI's product that will look into the red flags raised by two former FSIS employees, Carl Custer and Gerald Zirnstein. I've interviewed both gentlemen and wanted to give USDA a chance to respond to some of the statements that each has made that will be used in the piece.

Mr. Zirnstein says he visited BPI's factory in 2002 and that he raised concerns about their LBT product. In a March 2002 e-mail, Zirnstein termed the product "pink slime" and said he did not consider it to be ground beef (as per the USDA's definition). Does this jibe with USDA's recollection?

Mr. Custer, along with others in the department, received that e-mail, which confirmed his conclusions about BPI's product. Custer said he first encountered BPI back in the late 90's, and also concluded that the LBT was of an "inferior quality" to ground beef. It is his recollection that in 2002, then undersecretary JoAnn Smith declared of BPI's product, "If it's pink, then it's meat," and that FSIS dropped its objections to the LBT product thereafter. Can you corroborate or deny any of that?

Since the Dec. 30 2009 New York Times article detailing cases of E-Coli in BPI meat, what measures has USDA taken to insure that their LBT product is inspected on a regular basis? Are there any other steps USDA and FSIS have taken to allay the concerns raised by Mr. Zirnstein and Mr. Custer?

Thank you, once again, for your help with this. It's important to me to have the facts of this story reported properly.

Best,  
David Knowles  
Reporter, The Daily  
510-647-9584

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron](#)  
**Subject:** RE: BPI questions  
**Date:** Friday, February 17, 2012 8:12:42 AM

---

I'm staffing an interview (non-controversial about IT) this morning at 9:30 and should be done by 10 - just FYI

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

-----Original Message-----

From: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 4:12 PM  
To: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron  
Subject: RE: BPI questions

Ha ha! I've got a 10:30 tomorrow, but I can move it for a conversation with you both about this. just let me know what time works for you.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 3:48 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron  
Cc: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Subject: RE: BPI questions

Any way we can pivot the reporter into making it about the NSLP so Jarvis gets it? (sigh.)

-----Original Message-----

From: Lavallee, Aaron

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 3:43 PM

To: Ronholm, Brian; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Naessens, Katie; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

Subject: Fw: BPI questions

See below.

Let's connect on this first thing tomorrow

----- Original Message -----

From: Knowles, David [<mailto:David.Knowles@thedaily.com>]

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 02:39 PM

To: Lavallee, Aaron

Subject: BPI questions

Dear Aaron,

I've been asked to do another story on the BPI's product that will look into the red flags raised by two former FSIS employees, Carl Custer and Gerald Zirnstein. I've interviewed both gentlemen and wanted to give USDA a chance to respond to some of the statements that each has made that will be used in the piece.

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Thank you, once again, for your help with this. It's important to me to have the facts of this story reported properly.

Best,

David Knowles

Reporter, The Daily

510-647-9584

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron](#)  
**To:** ["Knowles, David"](#)  
**Cc:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: BPI questions  
**Date:** Friday, February 17, 2012 1:10:04 PM

---

David,  
My apologies for the delay - (b) (6). I want to make clear that our emails off the record for now.

I am going to need some time to look in to this and will loop in my colleague Dirk on this email.

I am not familiar with either of these gentlemen but I have some concerns with their statements below and your plan to use them.

I need to make very clear what FSIS does. FSIS is responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, correctly labeled and packaged. So if the validity of these individuals is based on the fact that they were FSIS employees then we have concerns because FSIS does not "consider something to be ground beef" and does not determine "inferior quality." FSIS is in the business of inspecting, not grading. So what these gentlemen are saying would appear to be personal opinions, not professional assessments or statements.

Also I would double check some of the dates as I believe JoAnn Smith may have been at USDA well before that.

We are going to do some checking on this and get back with you shortly. What is your timeline and the best number to reach you at?

Aaron Lavallee  
Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.720.6959  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov)  
<http://www.usda.gov>

Stay Connected with USDA:

-----Original Message-----

From: Knowles, David [<mailto:David.Knowles@thedaily.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 3:40 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron  
Subject: BPI questions

Dear Aaron,

I've been asked to do another story on the BPI's product that will look into the red flags raised by two former FSIS employees, Carl Custer and Gerald Zirnstein. I've interviewed both gentlemen and wanted to give USDA a chance to respond to some of the statements that each has made that will be used in the piece.

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Best,  
David Knowles  
Reporter, The Daily  
510-647-9584

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 6:54:14 PM

---

Things are OK I guess I am in Wellington Ks. this week and next. You talk about a dump this plant is one. I've seen other plants get shut down for things they do here every day. I'll be glad to get out of this hole for sure.

With this warm weather the fish are really starting to bite back home just wish I was there. My Dad & Mom went yesterday and caught 2 limits of white bass. I'm staying in Wichita, this weekend I think I will go and check out the new Cabala's that just opened today. Stay in touch.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 5:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI

Good Morning (b) (6) Thanks man Yes I have heard about this article just havn't read it until now Pretty Interesting.

How are you doing??

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 6:20 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** BPI

Thought you might find this article interesting.

<< File: 'The Lunch Tray' Responds to Beef Industry Defenses of 'Pink Slime'.mht >>

(b) (6)

*USDA Relief Inspector Circuit 10*

*Fair Grove Mo.*

Cell (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:33:49 PM

---

Mr. (b) (6)

No , the one here in Holcomb is down. They paid everybody two months severance and hope to overcome the bad press but it doesn't look good for them. The only one open is their Dakota City plant.

Mr. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** BPI

Mr. (b) (6)

I've heard all but one of the BPI operations nationwide has closed because of all the negative press associated with the "pink slime" ending up in the school lunch program. 650 employees were laid off. Did the BPI in Holcomb close or is it the one who survived the cut?

Mr. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector

USDA-FSIS-OFO

Kansas City Metro Area

(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:44:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

---

Me too

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:15 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI

Funny.. I like to not call in cuz I want to try to save as much S/L as possible.. ☺ I gotta long ways to go..

(b) (6)

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*"Love the ones you can. Touch the ones you can reach. Let the others go."*

Ms. (b) (6), CSI  
President, AFGE Union Local 3390  
Est. # 00244  
Storm Lake, IA  
Work: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
Fax: 712-732-7047

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:13 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI

I get time off awards all the time, (b) (6)

Then when I come to work I fill out my time off award/SF-71.  
Common Girl, this aint your first Rodeo!!!  
Be Good!!!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI

Yup, that would be good.... I've never ever gotten one of those..... oh well. ☺



(b) (6)

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*"Love the ones you can. Touch the ones you can reach. Let the others go."*

Ms. (b) (6), CSI  
President, AFGE Union Local 3390  
Est. # 00244  
Storm Lake, IA  
Work: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
Fax: 712-732-7047

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI

Well you're not a HARASSER and you're not very intimidating. How about I sign you up for a Time Off Award!!!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:42 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI

That 4735 form Or something along those lines of harassment and intimidation..... LOL

(b) (6)

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Work: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
Fax: 712-732-7047

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:03 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: BPI

Behave.....☺

Not this cat, not today!!!!!!

"I don't care about anyone else" Please!!!! You have a big heart, a good heart & you do care about others.

What kind of form should I file???

Anyway I suppose (b) (6) should get out more, but I'm afraid I would just ruin his nice guy personality. Bad Boy now & forever so bury me with my guns on and a bottle of Patron.

Gotta Roll...

Little Island Girl (don't mean you wouldn't fit in on a mountain!!!)

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 5:09 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: BPI

I've asked him and (b) (6) but maybe you should prod him a little... I think he needs to get out more and see the Big sky!!! And with you has his guide.... Wow, watch out! ☺

I'm an island girl and will always be.... I don't care about anyone else... you are who you are, and no I'm not discriminating but if you want to take it that way, go ahead and knock yourself out with that... are you going to file a form against me?? LOL....  
Behave!

(b) (6)

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***"Love the ones you can. Touch the ones you can reach. Let the others go."***

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Fax: 712-732-7047

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 5:06 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI

Mountains & Big Sky baby!!!! (b) (6), & I are driving out & on the way back we're stopping at Yellow Stone. So you categorize me as a "Hunter & Such" this sounds to me like discrimination. I've never been to that part of the US so I thought it would be a trip to see something I haven't seen yet. This hunter gatherer Neanderthal Gieco pitchman plans on having a good time even if he drags his knuckles when he walks. You should remember your and Island girl and your islands were/are volcanic mountains in themselves. Be Good & if you're not going send Jonesy, he's a caveman just like me, think he would enjoy it!!!  
Gotta Roll!!!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI

No, don't believe so... I was considering it but what is in Butte?? Probably more for you hunters and such.

(b) (6)

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President, AFGE Union Local 3390  
Est. # 00244  
Storm Lake, IA  
Work: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
Fax: 712-732-7047

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:40 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI

I will.....  
Is your Local sending anyone???

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:29 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: BPI

Let me know how Butte, Montana is....

(b) (6)

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*"Love the ones you can. Touch the ones you can reach. Let the others go."*

Ms. (b) (6) CSI  
President, AFGE Union Local 3390  
Est. # 00244  
Storm Lake, IA  
Work: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
Fax: 712-732-7047

---


**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:53 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** BPI

Yep, I went over there yesterday and they (plant employees) were all waiting for (b) (6) to show up their scheduled meeting. They were all pretty bummed. The GS-9's will be losing some OT as well, think I'll manage to survive though!!! ☺  
Crazy, that place ran 7 days a week for years & now the doors are shut, just like that!!!!  
Take care!!!!

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 6:16 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Emailing: Meatingplace.com - Daily News

 [regular page](#)



Industry News - PM  
**BPI suspends operations at three plants (updated)**

By [Lisa M. Keefe](#) on 3/26/2012

Beef Products Inc. today suspended operations at three of its locations: Garden City, Kans.; Amarillo, Texas; and Waterloo, Iowa, affecting 650 jobs. A fourth plant, in South Sioux City, Neb., will continue to operate.

"In an effort to protect our company and its family of employees from the recent unfounded and misguided attacks on our boneless lean beef trimmings, we have had to make some unfortunate and very difficult business decisions," CEO Eldon Roth said in a statement.

Although the plants are shut down for an undetermined amount of time, for now employees will continue to be

paid "full salaries and benefits to all employees as we work through the immediate impact of today's announcement."

"Although we are immediately ceasing operation, our intention is to continue to pay people in the interim while trying to sort this through," BPI spokesman Rich Jochum he told **Meatingplace**. "We're announcing it as a temporary suspension, although the employees will be getting [layoff] notices."

The shutdown affects 236 employees in Garden City, 207 in Amarillo, and 216 in Waterloo, Jochum said. "This has a direct impact on about 650 jobs; the indirect impact is much larger," Jochum said.

The facility in South Sioux City, Neb., which employs 450, remains in operation.

#### **Industry reacts**

"At a time when so many Americans struggle to put a healthy, nutritious meal on their family's dinner table, the unfounded mischaracterization of Lean Finely Textured Beef as 'pink slime' is unconscionable," said Barry Carpenter, CEO of the National Meat Association, in a statement. "I am sure the public is not aware of how widespread and potentially devastating the consequences of allowing public misperception to trump sound nutritional science are."

Carpenter warned that beyond BPI, the ripple effect could impact more than 3,000 suppliers and others that rely on BPI's business. He also noted without this source of lean beef product, grinders will likely have to import more beef to make lean ground beef products.

Said the American Meat Institute's J. Patrick Boyle, "In the end, today's developments are a sad day for the families ... . Other American families will also pay the price at the checkout counter as they see the price of ground beef begin to rise while we work to grow as many as 1.5 million more head of cattle to replace the beef that will no longer be consumed due to this manufactured scare."

*This story was updated to reflect additional commentary from AMI's Boyle.*

*For additional information on the LFTB controversy, please see [Meatingplace's LFTB News Center](#).*

Loading Comments... 

**Morning, (b) (6) what's going on with BPI? (b) (6)**

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Call Log Escalation  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 9:03:53 AM

---

Sorry, that was my bad – I forwarded the call yesterday to OC after it came in, but I forgot to close it out in Footprints until after I got this reminder email this morning. It's closed now.

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 9:02 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Call Log Escalation  
**Importance:** High

Dirk – can you please forward this to the appropriate folks and close it out of footprints? Thanks.  
Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [<mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 8:34 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** Call Log Escalation  
**Importance:** High

## Action Required:

Ticket **1632** assigned to **Media Staff** has been in **Open** Status for 24 hours. Please acknowledge the ticket by taking ownership and moving the ticket to a Pending status or return the call and close the ticket.

## **Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** 1632

**Subject of Call:** Miscellaneous

**Secondary Subject:**

**Call Date:** 03/15/2012 8:00 AM

**Contact Name:** Jenny Glick

**Caller Type:** Media

**Contact Phone Number:**

**Cell Phone Number:** 410-370-6519

**Alt. Phone Number:**

**Contact Email Address:**

**Employer/Organization:** CBS Radio

**Call Info:** Entered on 2012-03-15 at 08:18:11 by (b) (6) :

Reporter called for Carol or Bill Bagley. Re:  
announcement today about "pink slime."

Questions: What is it? How do you know if your  
meat has "pink slime."

She would like a call asap today on her cell  
phone.

**Notes:** Entered on 03/15/2012 at 08:18:10 EDT (GMT-0400) by (b) (6) :  
[ no Notes entered ]

[Click here to view Issue in Browser](#)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Camden Inn Flyers  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:12:26 PM

---

The name give a different impression that what it is but definitely still has the same effect. Fb should get a lot of attention that's for sure. Get some celebrities on the band wagon.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:59 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Camden Inn Flyers

Got the e-mail from (b) (6) and posted the information on who sells pink slime on FB

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:38 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Camden Inn Flyers

I remember her talking about fixing something to pass out at the convention so will be good. Did you get the pink slime e-mail from (b) (6) I forwarded to a few people and told them I hated to say it but the raw and the cooked with the slime looked better than the other to me now how nasty is that?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:16 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Camden Inn Flyers

The way she talked they are a one page flyer, all color, she said they look really nice and have phone number, fax number, amenities, and location. She said she thought we would be very pleased with them.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Camden Inn Flyers

You are saying flyers and I am thinking of their Branson magazines they put at the ticket outlets and the rest areas. So will get it figures out before we go (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:36 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Camden Inn Flyers



If you don't think we need that many just let her know. If there is extra some people may take two and give one to someone else. Whatever you think is A-OKAY with me.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Camden Inn Flyers

I think that will be way more than we need I will see if I can get off a Friday afternoon and go down maybe the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in April to get them. Will have to pack in my big suitcase with the promos. y

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 12:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Camden Inn Flyers

(b) (6) called me back from the Camden Inn and they do have the flyers for us. She has 50, full color, for us to distribute. She is in her office Monday through Friday from 0800 to 1700. Her office is not located at the motel, it is located on the top level of the Brookwood Inn. The address is

2875 Green Mountain Drive

Branson, MO

Her number is 800-800-2019

I did not ask for more. I figured some people would share so that should be enough.

(b) (6), Columbia Relief CSI

Lawrence District Office

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Campbell's letter  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 8:40:38 AM

---

That's ok, I can do it this weekend. Everything usually hits the fan on Monday's; I am sure pink slime will raise its ugly head again too ☺

---

**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 8:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Campbell's letter

I don't think you need to do it on weekend. Monday should be fine. If you want to it on weekend, I will certainly look at it.

-----

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 07:17 AM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Campbell's letter

Rachel,

I can work on it and get you all a revised copy to you tomorrow. If I can't figure out Phil's comments and how to address I will definitely e-mail you all tomorrow.

Jeff

---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:17 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Campbell's letter

Here is the update. Dan—This would be for your signature.

He is asking for some specific information on FDA regs. Please let me know if I can help. If we can get this back to Phil Monday, that would be good. Once he's ok with it, we should send to OGC, based on his message below. I think we should also send OGC the incoming. (I think we have electronic copy.)

Phil removed the statement about needing a statement giving context to the reference, based on DGA patterns. Does that change LPDD policy for other label claims also?

Thanks, Rachel

---

**From:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:03 AM

**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Campbell's letter

Here is another version of the Campbell letter. I just accepted the changes that I made yesterday and read the letter. Here are the changes that I thought necessary. People ought to work from this version. Happy to respond to questions.

---

**From:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 5:35 PM  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Campbell's letter

---

**From:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 5:17 PM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Campbell's letter

Here are my tracked changes to the Campbell's letter. I think that it winds up being verbose, so I am going to play with it some. I do have a number of questions though that need to be addressed by LPDD, and maybe you can figure out a way to make it flow a little better. We can talk when you are ready. I would like to get it out next week. We might should ask Walsh to take a look at it.

---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 10:33 PM  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Campbell's letter

Ok. We tried.

Jeff—I made some additional changes. I hope the discussion of the study is ok. I opened up the study, but I didn't have time to read it carefully.

I will be with union all day, but will be checking messages. And we take breaks.

Rachel

**From:** [Nintemann, Terri - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#); [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW Talking point for OFS - Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:04:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

---

Do we want to address the 4 times more likely claim for Salmonella? The info here only addresses E coli O157:H7.

In the first bullet where you mention 51 samples to date do we mean March 2012 or is that a date in 2009? Need to clarify. And in the second bullet – need to add timeframe for when all tests were negative. If that 51 is from 06-09 then the total number you have listed at the very bottom for FSIS testing should add up to 51 as well not 34.

In the background, where you have last 4 years I would put 06-09 if that is the case. And we should put a starting date/year rather than up to Dec 2009 for the FSIS data listed at the bottom.

[\(b\) \(6\)](#) is looking at the dates and numbers to confirm them.

Terri Nintemann  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Data Integration and Food Protection  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Room 3130 South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
202-720-8218 phone  
202-465-6755 cell  
202-690-5634 fax  
email: [terri.nintemann@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:terri.nintemann@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:38 AM  
**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS - FSIS; Nintemann, Terri - FSIS; [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW Talking point for OFS - Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Colleagues,

Attached (and below) is a DRAFT response to those pulling from the Dec. 2009 NYT piece on the safety of LFTB. Given the pressing time constraints, I'm sending to the whole group at once.

Additionally, we are working to update the Dec. 13, 2009 timeline attached, which only focuses on one of the four BPI plants – expand and update to the extent possible. Best ~ Brian

**March 22, 2012**  
**Jerry Hagstrom Question**

**Questions regarding a 2009 report found that it was four times more likely to test positive for salmonella than traditional ground beef – as cited by Senator Tester in his March 19, 2012 Press Release, appear to draw on a December 31, 2009 New York Times story by Michael Moss [\[1\]](#) in which the Times writes:**

*"E. coli and salmonella pathogens have been found dozens of times in Beef Products meat, challenging claims by the company and the U.S.D.A. about the effectiveness of the treatment. Since 2005, E. coli has been found 3 times and salmonella 48 times, including back-to-back incidents in August in which two 27,000-pound batches were found to be contaminated. The meat was caught before reaching lunch-room trays.*

- On Dec 8, 2009, FSIS determined BPI ammoniated lean beef trimming products are subject to *E.coli* O157:H7 testing after a Food Safety Assessment (which ended on Oct. 15, 2009) identified that the chips should be subject to routine FSIS verification sampling. Since then, there have been no positive tests for *E. coli* O157:H7, representing 51 total agency samples to date from the four different plants.
- Even before the reporter told USDA of his independent research regarding the Beef Products meat, consistent with our policy and practice, FSIS tested product at BPI during follow up sampling triggered by a supplier notification in STEPs – all FSIS results were negative.

#### **BACKGROUND on the 3 *E. coli* positives referenced in the article:**

AMS sampling reflects the following: in reviewing records from BPI from December 2006, a total of 1,138 samples were tested for *E. coli* O157:H7 by the AMS Designated Laboratory. Out of those 1,138 samples, two results were positive, both from their South Sioux City plant. The first was from July 11, 2008 and the next was August 10, 2009. There were 326 samples tested between the two positives with no findings of *E. Coli* O157:H7.

BPI produces this product for AMS at four locations; Waterloo, IA, Amarillo, TX, Finney County, KS, and South Sioux City, NE.

#### AMS Testing (up to Dec. 2009)

3 positives over the last 4 years:

- 4-4-06 - AMS sample positive
- 7-11-08 - AMS positive on LFTB
- 8-10-09 - AMS positive on LFTB (ammoniated-chips). There were 326 samples tested under the AMS contract between the last two positives with no findings of *E. coli* O157:H7.

#### FSIS Testing (up to Dec. 2009)

FSIS tested product at BPI during follow up sampling in response to a supplier notification in STEPs – all FSIS results were negative.

- 7/14/2008, a single sample, component in STEPS
- 7/21-8/12/2008, a 16 sample set following the AMS positive
- 8/26-10/2/2008, a 16 sample set based on a second STEPS entry
- 8/10 /2009, a single STEPS entry, single sample

# # #

**Brian K. Mabry**  
**Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs**  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
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direct dial 202.720.9891  
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[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:18 AM

**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Nintemann, Terri - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Thanks. Please share information with us as soon as you have it.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

Room 339-E Whitten Building

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: (202) 720-3884

Fax: (202) 205-0301

Cell: (202) 557-4736

[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:14 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Nintemann, Terri - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS

**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Background on BPI issue.

Carol, ODIFP is pulling our data.

David Goldman, MD, MPH

Assistant Administrator

USDA-FSIS-OPHS

202-720-2644

-----  
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

---

**From:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 08:08 AM

**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

I don't think we ever developed talking points to respond to the BPI Moss story. But we need to – looping in Carol. What is our response to those data findings? They are a couple of years old now. BPI's response in the article is essentially "we're not perfect" and that their testing was more likely to find contamination.

Here's the link to the story: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/31/us/31meat.html?pagewanted=all>

---

**From:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:22 AM

**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS

**Cc:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC

**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

We removed that exemption in 2009, though- we should have data, right?

---

**From:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:21 AM

**To:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS

**Cc:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC

**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

We (FSIS) have not been sampling this product--it has an exemption. It could refer to AMS or some other sampling program. We'll find out.

David Goldman, MD, MPH

Assistant Administrator

USDA-FSIS-OPHS

202-720-2644

-----  
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

---

**From:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:04 AM

**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS

**Cc:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC

**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

? Pls advise

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:00 AM

**To:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC

**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

What 2009 report is he referring to that found higher levels of salmonella?

---

**From:** DeJong, Justin - OC

**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 10:17 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Lavalley, Aaron - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC

**Cc:** (b) (6) OC

**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

flagging.

---

**From:** Hagstrom, Jerry [mailto:JHagstrom@nationaljournal.com]

**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 10:14 PM

**To:** DeJong, Justin - OC

**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

I will write about this Tuesday, Tell me if you want to react to this.

---

**From:** Helling, Andrea (Tester) [mailto:Andrea\_Helling@tester.senate.gov]

**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 05:00 PM

**Subject:** RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:53:47 AM

---

Don't need any there should enough "slime" on the call in guest list!

(b) (6) Program Auditor

USDA-FSIS-ICAD-OPEER-FSAB

Salisbury Field Office

212 West Main St.

Plaza Gallery Building, Suite 302

Salisbury, MD 21801

Ph) (b) (6)

BB) (b) (6) Pin: (b) (6)

Fax) 410-341-3612

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:53 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

No but pink slime was on special this morning!

(b) (6)

Program Auditor

USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Ave, Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5980

(b) (6) (office), (b) (6) (mobile), (402) 344-5104 (Fax)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Did you get chips and salsa for the state director gripe call?

(b) (6) Program Auditor

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BB) (b) (6) Pin: (b) (6)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:49 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

☺

(b) (6)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:49 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

I gave them a heads up that may happen!

(b) (6) Program Auditor

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

No. Next time I can't sleep I will give them a call to keep them company.

(b) (6)

**Program Auditor**

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(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:40 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Did you know they work 24/7?

(b) (6) Program Auditor

USDA-FSIS-ICAD-OPEER-FSAB

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:38 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Yeah OCIO!!!!

(b) (6)

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(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:36 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

At 0530 this morning, I got OCIO to unlock and reinstall Adobe X 3 times before it would work!

(b) (6) Program Auditor

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Fax) 410-341-3612

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Form in Reader

You found the Submit button heh?

(b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:05:42 AM

---

Mike, it is something that is over my pea brain as well!

(b) (6) Program Auditor

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Tell me the difference between “beef manufacturing trimmings” and “beef trim from non-intact beef”. Those terms are both in the new Notice to prove I am not making it up.

All I can think of for a definition is that it is trim from trim and where I come from that would still be trim, although it may be smaller but again trim is trim unless it is bench trim or table trim or trim trim. What? What did I just say?

(b) (6)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:16 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

I read another one and it was even worse with repetitive words used several times in the elongated sentences. Poorly structured and very dumbfounding.

(b) (6) Program Auditor

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:14 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

I am reading the new MT60 Notice that Linwood is assigned to collect comments on

(b) (6)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:14 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

In others words, Bigger is not always better but it can be!

(b) (6) Program Auditor

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:13 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Ok nice try now let's get the plain language flowing buddy

(b) (6)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:12 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Who's on first?

(b) (6) Program Auditor

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:11 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Production volume has a greater effect on the frequency of sampling than risk by production volume group and high prevalence season. The result is that even though establishments in large production volume groups represent less risk as a production volume group they are sampled at a higher frequency. This is due to the effect production volume has on sampling frequency.

Please put that paragraph in plain language for me.

(b) (6)

Program Auditor

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(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Life is good today!

(b) (6) Program Auditor

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Scary

(b) (6)

Program Auditor

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(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Must be a Shaman, don't you think?

(b) (6) Program Auditor

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Plaza Gallery Building, Suite 302

Salisbury, MD 21801

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BB) (b) (6) Pin: (b) (6)

Fax) 410-341-3612

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Is that stuff real or just made up? The attraction power of the magnet may be something all Native Americans possess

(b) (6)

Program Auditor

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Do you think Kryptonite affects it?

(b) (6) Program Auditor

USDA-FSIS-ICAD-OPEER-FSAB

Salisbury Field Office

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Plaza Gallery Building, Suite 302

Salisbury, MD 21801

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BB) (b) (6) Pin: (b) (6)

Fax) 410-341-3612

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Magnetism is a force that knows no boundaries. I think it works through concrete walls.

(b) (6)

Program Auditor

USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch

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(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Must be a female....I didn't realize his magnetism works over phone lines too!

(b) (6) Program Auditor

USDA-FSIS-ICAD-OPEER-FSAB

Salisbury Field Office

212 West Main St.

Plaza Gallery Building, Suite 302

Salisbury, MD 21801

Ph) (b) (6)

BB) (b) (6) Pin: (b) (6)

Fax) 410-341-3612

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:57 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

No (b) (6) today, magnet is on phone

(b) (6)

Program Auditor

USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch

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1616 Capitol Ave, Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5980

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(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:56 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Good! How's Chief magneto doing? Have you seen (b) (6) this morning? I want to harass him.

(b) (6) Program Auditor

USDA-FSIS-ICAD-OPEER-FSAB

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212 West Main St.

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Salisbury, MD 21801

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Fax) 410-341-3612

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

Already better brother

(b) (6)

**Program Auditor**

**USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch**

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(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

(b) (6) today is going to be a better day than yesterday, just repeat that over and over in your mind until it takes hold!

(b) (6) Program Auditor

USDA-FSIS-ICAD-OPEER-FSAB

Salisbury Field Office

212 West Main St.

Plaza Gallery Building, Suite 302

Salisbury, MD 21801

Ph) (b) (6)

BB) (b) (6) Pin: (b) (6)

Fax) 410-341-3612

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:53 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Form in Reader

No but pink slime was on special this morning!

(b) (6)

**Program Auditor**

**USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch**

**Edward Zorinsky Federal Building**

**1616 Capitol Ave, Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5980**

**(b) (6) (office), (b) (6) (mobile), (402) 344-5104 (Fax)**

**(b) (6)** [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Food Inspection](#)  
**To:** [MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov](mailto:MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) [@bellsouth.net](mailto:(b) (6)@bellsouth.net)  
**Bcc:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Forwarded from the Governor's Office  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:42:46 AM

---

To whom it may concern,  
Please see the below complaint regarding a meat processing facility.

Thank you

Food Inspection  
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Division of Food Safety  
3125 Conner Boulevard, Suite D  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650  
Office (850)-245-5520  
FAX (850) 245-5553

-----Original Message-----

From: jean alexander [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@bellsouth.net](mailto:(b) (6)@bellsouth.net)]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 9:12 PM  
To: Governor Rick Scott  
Subject: [Spam:\*\*\*\*\* SpamScore] Pink Slime

From: jean alexander (b) (6)@bellsouth.net>

County: Alachua

Zip Code: 32210-4929

Message Body: jean alexander  
(b) (6)  
jacksonville, FL 32210-4929

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Rick Scott  
Governor of Florida  
The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Governor Scott:

Dear Sir;

I would like you to conduct a thorough investigation of the Fortune 500 company- Cargill and if their meat by-products(Pink Slime) are being hidden in the food that we buy in Florida I would like them banned or at very least labelled for identification. I am shocked to know that for thirty or forty years they have been sweeping the floor of scraps previously used for pet food and spraying it with ammonia so that they can produce "Pink Slime". Former employees have attempted to bring the matter to light but apparently the Cargill company has friends in Washington and have been protected.

With inflation I am now paying \$4 and \$5 per pound for ground beef and I am horrified to know what I have been eating. The stores that use this disgusting slop are protected so we have no way of knowing where not to shop. More horrifying is that the USDA has been allowing this garbage in school lunches. I am so ashamed of a government that abuses its people in matters such as this.

Sincerely,

jean alexander

(b) (6)

jean alexander sent this message via Congress.org, which uses the CapwizXC system. Congress.org is a free public service of Capitol Advantage and Knowlegis, LLC. You may access Congress.org here:

<http://congress.org>



**From:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**To:** [Rowe, Courtney - OC](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - OSEC](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:29:33 AM

---

Fox News Channel just ran report on this that repeated most from last night

---

**From:** Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; [\(b\) \(6\) - OSEC](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Looping [\(b\) \(6\)](#) here. I am booked solid until 2:30. But could do something after that.

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:14 AM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request

I know folks are at hearings and spread throughout right now, but FSIS Media thinks it would be worthwhile to have a conference call or quick huddle early this afternoon about where we think this story will go and how we want to respond.

Thanks for your consideration. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:09 AM  
**To:** Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request

yes

---

**From:** Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:07 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Does this work?

All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:05 AM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Okay well he has our background on food safety as a whole.  
Courtney can we take nsfp out of the quote? He is going to chop it up on his own otherwise.

---

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:00 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Not a grade issue. This is FSIS mark of inspection issue not grading.

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:42 AM  
**To:** Rowe, Courtney - OC; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Cc:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** Fw: FOX News: Pink Slime request

See below - fox is confusing the usda grade A - I have asked mike to reach out

Why cannot let this story taint the grading program.

---

**From:** Folbaum, Rick [<mailto:Rick.Folbaum@FOXNEWS.COM>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 09:38 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Thank you

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC [<mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:37 AM  
**To:** Folbaum, Rick  
**Subject:** Re: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Rick

Off the record

The purchases we make are for the school program I am not sure what purchases you mean outside of that - I am in a meeting and will have a colleague contact you about the grading program you refer to. Give me just a few.

---

**From:** Folbaum, Rick [<mailto:Rick.Folbaum@FOXNEWS.COM>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 09:31 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Thanks Aaron. But my questions weren't specifically about the National School Lunch Program. I was asking about all USDA stamped beef products sold in supermarkets. Can you re-word the statement below so that I can use it? I don't want to have to chop it up, though I could use just the second half of the quote. Removing the schools part would help me.

As for the link, I'll check it out.

Thank you!

Rick

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC [<mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:27 AM  
**To:** Folbaum, Rick  
**Subject:** Fw: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Rick,

On the record from USDA Spokesperson Aaron Lavallee:

???All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program must meet the highest standards for food safety.?? This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce - and especially into schools - that we have confidence are safe.???

OFF THE RECORD:

For information about this particular product, please contact the company and here is a link to a public video of the CEO

This video quotes the CEO/Founder as saying 70%

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHQHPNoyO7c&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHQHPNoyO7c&feature=player_embedded)

??

??

---

**From:** Chan, Stephanie - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 09:20 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Cc:** Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Subject:** FOX News: Pink Slime request

Report in an Hr.

---

**From:** Folbaum, Rick [<mailto:Rick.Folbaum@FOXNEWS.COM>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:12 AM  
**To:** [STEPHANIE.CHAN@USDA.GOV](mailto:STEPHANIE.CHAN@USDA.GOV)  
**Subject:** Request from Rick Folbaum at Fox News Channel

Stephanie,

As per our phone conversation, I'd wish to request a response to the ABC News report on so called "pink slime" being found in "70 percent of the ground beef (found) at supermarkets." The report quotes two former USDA scientists, Gerald Zirnstein and Carl Custer, who say they warned against using these beef trimmings, but that their government bosses "overruled them."

Are these charges true? Were the scientists overruled? Are these ingredients safe for public consumption? What are these ingredients? And what is the USDA's position on beef manufacturers who use cheaper ingredients as a way of boosting their profits?

My live report is in an hour, and I apologize for asking for such a quick turnaround, but I was just assigned the story. If you have a written statement, I'd like to incorporate it in my live shot. Emailing me is the best way to reach me as I will only be at my desk for the next 30 minutes.

Thank you,  
Rick Folbaum  
212-301-3050

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 12, 2012  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:45:08 AM

---

Exactly, didn't they use to call it Finely Textured Protein as well?

(b) (6)

District Case Specialist

Chicago District Office

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:42 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 12, 2012

I know...I called it AMR last week and was corrected, but that's basically what it is too.

(b) (6), SEIAO  
USDA/FSIS Chicago District

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:40 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 12, 2012

I understand there has been a change in the process but they have been using stuff "like" this for a long time.

(b) (6)

District Case Specialist

Chicago District Office

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:30 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 12, 2012

Yes...I've seen it. Its all the rage. I spoke to the HACCP coordinator at Keystone Foods

about I last week. They've stopped using it. Lots of protest against using it in the school lunch program.

(b) (6), SEIAO  
USDA/FSIS Chicago District

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Food Safety eNews - March 12, 2012

Not sure if you guys had heard of this "Pink Slime" or not. It is basically LFTB.

(b) (6)

District Case Specialist

Chicago District Office

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6)hsen - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:49 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Food Safety eNews - March 12, 2012

Dr. (b) (6), FLS

FSIS-USDA-FO

Chicago Distict

BBY (b) (6)

**From:** [Davis, Perry - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 16, 2012  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 11:02:25 AM

---

Good Morning and thanks very much for the information

If you speak with her again say hello for me

*Perry Earl Davis*

**Deputy District Manager**

**USDA, FSIS, OFO**

**Jackson District Office**

**713 S. Pear Orchard Road Suite 402**

**Ridgeland, MS 30157**

**Phone # 601-965-4312/1-800-647-2484**

**Fax # 601-965-5901**

[perry.davis@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:perry.davis@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:00 AM  
**To:** Davis, Perry - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 16, 2012

Good morning, Perry. Thank you! Lots of Pink Slime lately in the news.

I talked to (b) (6) recently. She said to tell you hello. She is enjoying retirement. She and (b) (6) are building a house in a mountain in Oregon.

(b) (6), DVM, FLS

Chattanooga Circuit, Jackson District, USDA-FSIS

P.O. Box 968, Decatur, TN 37322

office: (b) (6)

**From:** [Berhow, Trent - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 20, 2012  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:54:26 AM

---

Thanks (b) (6)

I have known (b) (6) for several years now. The Lunch Tray Lady's comments were very good.

*Trent J. Berhow, President*

*Midwest Council of Food Inspection Locals*

*American Federation of Government Employees*

*USDA FSIS Office*

*c/o Millard Refrigerated Services*

*601 Industrial Drive*

*Denison, Iowa 51442*

*Phone: (712) 263-6191*

*Fax: (712) 263-2450*

*"Attitude Reflects Leadership"*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)

- FSIS;

(b) (6)

**Cc:** Berhow, Trent - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Food Safety eNews - March 20, 2012

If you haven't seen it, a really good article in the Food Safety News is: "In Defense of Food Safety Leadership" which should be titled "In Defense of Pink Slime" The best part of this article is the comment section. Among others be sure to see the comment from (b) (6). AP



---

**From:** Bagley, William - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:01 AM  
**To:** FSIS - Food Safety News  
**Cc:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Naessens, Katie - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; Brownlee, Jim - OC; Halbrook, Brenda - FNS; (b) (6)@obpa.usda.gov; (b) (6)@fns.usda.gov; (b) (6)@obpa.usda.gov; (b) (6); (b) (6)@OMB.EOP.GOV; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavalley, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Subject:** Food Safety eNews - March 20, 2012

## **Food Safety News**

March 20, 2012

- *Food Safety News* 3/20/12 **Q & A With Elisabeth Hagen, Part I: USDA's New Non-0157 STEC Policy**  
<http://bit.ly/GADQbK>
- *Food Safety News* 3/20/12 **Uninspected Pork Recalled**  
<http://bit.ly/GACuys>
- *Food Safety News* 3/20/12 **Consumers Not Protected with Food Safety Rules 'Stuck in Review'**  
<http://bit.ly/GB9gO6>
- *Food Safety News* 3/17/12 **In Defense of Food Safety Leadership (Opinion)**  
<http://bit.ly/GAMrNA>
- *Boston Daily Magazine* 3/20/12 **Boston Public Schools Shelves Pink Slime**  
<http://bit.ly/GAvQfF>
- *New York Times* 3/19/12 **Links for a Very Early Spring**  
<http://nyti.ms/GCtgG8>
- *Marler Blog* 3/17/12 **Putting me out of the beef business**  
<http://bit.ly/GAE6s9>
- *Farm Futures* 3/19/12 **USDA Announces Choices for Beef Products Next School Year**  
<http://bit.ly/GAT6uz>
- *Cattle Network* 3/19/12 **BPI website busts 'pink slime' myths**  
<http://bit.ly/GB8apU>
- *The Poultry Site* 3/19/12 **Increased Resources for National Poultry Improvement Plan Requested**  
<http://bit.ly/GAD0tW>

**Additional Articles (subscription):**

- *Food Chemical News* 3/19/12 [USDA offers schools chance to opt out of “pink slime” product](#)

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To obtain your certification, please follow the authentication instructions at <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov/fsis/public/static/index.jsp>.

### **Congressional Summary**

March 20, 2012

#### **Today's Legislative Schedule**

The Senate will reconvene at 10 a.m., and be in morning business for one hour. Thereafter, the chamber will resume consideration of the small-business capital legislation (H.R. 3606). At 11:30 a.m., the Senate will begin a series of cloture votes in relation to the bill. The chamber will recess subject to the call of the chair at 12:30 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus lunches and the official photograph of the senators.

The House will reconvene at noon to consider one bill under suspension of the rules. The chamber will also consider legislation (H.R. 2087) to remove federal restrictions on certain land in Virginia.

#### **Congressional Hearings, Meetings, and Mark-ups**

*None to report*

#### **Other News**

On March 21, USDA's Office of the Undersecretary for Food Safety and FSIS will hold a meeting via web conference of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection to discuss the proposed rule on the Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection. The web conference will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. To join this event via the web, visit <http://emsp.intellor.com/enter> and enter the Event ID: 410615.

On March 28, USDA's Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety and FSIS will hold a meeting by teleconference of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods to discuss food safety questions to assist the 2012-2013 ground beef purchase for the School Lunch Program. The teleconference will begin at 2:00 p.m. For more information, contact Karen Thomas-Sharp at (202) 690-6620 or [Karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov).

On March 28, USDA's Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety and FSIS will hold a meeting of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) on positions that will be discussed at the 27th session to be held in Paris, France, April 2-6, 2012, including: Matters Referred to the CCGP; Issues Surrounding Codex Standards Held at Step 8; Mechanism for Examining Economic Impact Statements; Review of the Risk Analysis Policies of Codex Committees; Definition of the Term "Hazard"; Proposed Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Committee; Development of Joint Codex-World Organization for Animal Health Standards; Distribution of Codex Documents and Length and Content of Meeting Reports. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. at 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Whitten Room 107-A, Washington, DC.

Bill Bagley

Public Affairs Specialist

USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service

Congressional and Public Affairs

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (202) 720-0286

bb: (202) 731-2152

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

**From:** [Berhow, Trent - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 20, 2012  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 3:54:33 PM

---

Met her a few times over the years; once at a senate subcommittee hearing in Des Moines. The agency found out I was there and sent a photographer to take my picture. They were not happy.

*Trent J. Berhow, President*

*Midwest Council of Food Inspection Locals*

*American Federation of Government Employees*

*USDA FSIS Office*

*c/o Millard Refrigerated Services*

*601 Industrial Drive*

*Denison, Iowa 51442*

*Phone: (712) 263-6191*

*Fax: (712) 263-2450*

*"Attitude Reflects Leadership"*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 1:52 PM  
**To:** Berhow, Trent - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 20, 2012

Ooooh, you got connections.....

---

**From:** Berhow, Trent - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 20, 2012

Thanks (b) (6)

I have known (b) (6) for several years now. The Lunch Tray Lady's comments were very good.

*Trent J. Berhow, President*

Midwest Council of Food Inspection Locals

American Federation of Government Employees

USDA FSIS Office

c/o Millard Refrigerated Services

601 Industrial Drive

Denison, Iowa 51442

Phone: (712) 263-6191

Fax: (712) 263-2450

"Attitude Reflects Leadership"

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:58 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS;

(b) (6)

**Cc:** Berhow, Trent - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: Food Safety eNews - March 20, 2012

If you haven't seen it, a really good article in the Food Safety News is: "In Defense of Food Safety Leadership" which should be titled "In Defense of Pink Slime" The best part of this article is the comment section. Among others be sure to see the comment from Bettina Siegel. AP

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 21, 2012  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 12:46:18 PM

---

Yeah, I noticed some of the words were now quite right.

How was the AL meeting??

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 12:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 21, 2012

I think they should have said, incidental additives instead of additives. Everything is an additive. Another distortion.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

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<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:06 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Food Safety eNews - March 21, 2012

If you read the first article about Elizabeth Hagen, I think OPTION 2 is in agreement with her statements. So the school lunch can know, but not consumers, many additives are not labeled.

(b) (6)

**From:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 21, 2012  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 12:48:54 PM

---

Actually, not bad. Jeff did good and (b) (6) was there. We came up with a temporary decision to allow the legend on caddies without the need to remove it; i.e., no need to add it to the tear strip.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

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Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_Fsis/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 12:46 PM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 21, 2012

Yeah, I noticed some of the words were now quite right.

How was the AL meeting??

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 12:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 21, 2012

I think they should have said, incidental additives instead of additives. Everything is an additive. Another distortion.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

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Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_Fsis/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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telephone, FAX, or Email immediately.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:06 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Food Safety eNews - March 21, 2012

If you read the first article about Elizabeth Hagen, I think OPTION 2 is in agreement with her statements. So the school lunch can know, but not consumers, many additives are not labeled.

Sally

---

**From:** Khan, Atiya - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:41 AM  
**To:** FSIS - Food Safety News  
**Cc:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Naessens, Katie - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; Brownlee, Jim - OC; Halbrook, Brenda - FNS; (b) (6)@obpa.usda.gov; (b) (6)@fns.usda.gov; (b) (6)@obpa.usda.gov; (b) (6)@oc.usda.gov; 'BCHAN@OMB.EOP.GOV'; Holtzman, Max - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavalley, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Subject:** Food Safety eNews - March 21, 2012

## **FOOD SAFETY NEWS**

March 21, 2012

- *Food Safety News* 3/21/12 **Q&A with Elisabeth Hagen, Part II: Poultry, 'pink slime' and labeling**  
<http://bit.ly/GEAQ3F>
- *Food Safety News* 3/21/12 **House budget seeks steep spending cuts**  
<http://bit.ly/Glt2YD>
- *The Atlantic* 3/20/12 **The Ag Gag Law: Hiding factory farm abuses from public scrutiny (Opinion)**  
<http://bit.ly/GEB0rS>
- *Scientific American* 3/21/12 **Food safety: A job for 10-year-olds?**  
<http://bit.ly/GDeiit>
- *ABC News* 3/21/12 **Safeway to stop selling 'pink slime' textured beef**  
<http://abcn.ws/GltoON>
- *National Geographic* 3/20/12 **Where's the beef?**



<http://bit.ly/GE57x4>

- *Discovery News* 3/19/12 **Pink slime: Psychology of the ick factor**

<http://bit.ly/GHT3cF>

- *My Fox DC* 3/20/12 **Pink slime beef not found in Anne Arundel County public schools**

<http://bit.ly/GltLc9>

- *17 KGET.com* 3/20/12 **How local schools are opting out from pink slime**

<http://bit.ly/GCy7a7>

- *Western Farm Press* 3/20/12 **Pink slime controversy fueled by mass hysteria**

<http://bit.ly/GDONJo>

- *Lebanon Daily News* 3/20/12 **Public 'slimed' by lack of beef facts (Opinion)**

<http://bit.ly/GD21q3>

- *Huffington Post* 3/20/12 **Let's not give in to beef industry "slimewashing" (Opinion)**

<http://huff.to/GClua2>

**Other Articles of Interest** (Paid Subscription Required)

- *Food Chemical News* 3/20/12 **No mention of agriculture or food safety in House GOP budget proposal**

- *Food Chemical News* 3/20/12 **FDA identifies foods for traceability pilot projects**

\*\*\*\*\*

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## **Congressional Summary**

March 21, 2012

### **Today's Legislative Schedule**

The Senate will reconvene at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday and be in morning business for one hour. After that, the chamber will resume consideration of the small business capital bill (H.R. 3606). A cloture vote with respect to the legislation will occur at approximately 10:30 a.m. The chamber will be in morning business from 2:30 - 3 p.m. to allow remarks honoring Maryland Democrat Barbara Mikulski

on her becoming the longest-serving woman lawmaker in Congressional history.

The House will reconvene at noon to consider one bill under suspension of the rules. The chamber will also begin consideration of legislation (H.R. 5) that would place limits on damages awarded in medical malpractice lawsuits and repeal a panel created by the 2010 health care overhaul law to recommend Medicare cost savings.

### **Congressional Hearings, Meetings, and Mark-ups**

*None to report*

### **Other News**

**Today, USDA's Office of the Undersecretary for Food Safety and FSIS will hold a meeting via web conference of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection to discuss the proposed rule on the Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection. The web conference will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. To join this event via the web, visit <http://emsp.intellor.com/enter> and enter the Event ID: 410615.**

On March 28, USDA's Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety and FSIS will hold a meeting by teleconference of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods to discuss food safety questions to assist the 2012-2013 ground beef purchase for the School Lunch Program. The teleconference will begin at 2:00 p.m. For more information, contact Karen Thomas-Sharp at (202) 690-6620 or [Karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov).

On March 28, USDA's Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety and FSIS will hold a meeting of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) on positions that will be discussed at the 27th session to be held in Paris, France, April 2-6, 2012, including: Matters Referred to the CCGP; Issues Surrounding Codex Standards Held at Step 8; Mechanism for Examining Economic Impact Statements; Review of the Risk Analysis Policies of Codex Committees; Definition of the Term "Hazard"; Proposed Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Committee; Development of Joint Codex-World Organization for Animal Health Standards; Distribution of Codex Documents and Length and Content of Meeting Reports. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. at 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Whitten Room 107-A, Washington, DC.

-----  
Atiya Khan  
Legislative Analyst

Congressional & Public Affairs Office  
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202-510-5710 (cell)  
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**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often    **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature    **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 8, 2012  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:36:49 AM

---

Yes, the slime is what makes it taste good. Wait 'til someone tells the world what goes into ground turkey or chicken ...

(b) (6), DVM, MBA, MPVM, PhD

*Executive Associate for Laboratory Services*

*USDA/FSIS/OPHS*

*950 College Station Rd.*

*Athens, GA 30605*

*Ph. (706) 546 3420; Fax (706) 546 3428*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:32 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Food Safety eNews - March 8, 2012

FYI – Just in case you didn't see the news last night, you might want to view the first topic listed.

---

**From:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:27 AM  
**To:** FSIS - Food Safety News  
**Cc:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Naessens, Katie - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; Brownlee, Jim - OC; Halbrook, Brenda - FNS; (b) (6) @obpa.usda.gov; (b) (6) @fns.usda.gov; (b) (6) @obpa.usda.gov; (b) (6) @OMB.EOP.GOV; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Subject:** Food Safety eNews - March 8, 2012

## **Food Safety News**

March 8, 2012

- **ABC News 3/7/12 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime'**

<http://abcn.ws/x9kRli>

- **Cattle Network 3/8/12 House Ag Committee outlines budget priorities**

<http://bit.ly/yIGsLN>

- *Food Safety News* 3/8/12 **Senate Ag Committee Discusses Small Farms and Food Safety**

<http://bit.ly/yuTX8o>

- *Food Safety News* 3/8/12 **Another Clue to E. Coli O104:H4?**

<http://bit.ly/wxrNSt>

- *Meatingplace* 3/8/12 **Cattle not to blame for E. coli O104:H4**

<http://bit.ly/AnGWb8>

- *Feedstuffs* 3/7/12 **PSA expresses support for USDA proposal to modernize poultry inspection**

<http://bit.ly/wDsdeT>

- *NorthCentralPA.com* 3/7/12 **Privatized Meat Inspection Experiment Jeopardizes Food Safety**

<http://bit.ly/ACamM6>

- *Meatingplace* 3/7/12 **NACMPI to hold public meeting on proposed poultry rule**

<http://bit.ly/wMF2k0>

- *Food Safety News* 3/8/12 **Campaign Against BPI's 'Pink Slime'**

<http://bit.ly/zgnki9>

- *Washington Post* 3/8/12 **Beef—er, pink slime—it's what's for school lunch. And I'm okay with it.**

<http://wapo.st/yb0BAG>

- *Washington Post* 3/7/12 **'Pink slime' in school lunches: Government is buying 7 million pounds worth**

<http://wapo.st/xYkvtz>

- *9News.com – CBS Colorado* 3/8/12 **'Pink Slime' eliminated from fast food, going to school lunches**

<http://on9news.tv/yYiPDQ>

- *Meatingplace* 3/8/12 **Chicken processors hold line on salmonella: study**  
<http://bit.ly/ABuCi3>
- *Associated Press* 3/8/12 **Taiwanese protest US beef import plan**  
<http://bit.ly/yVMzF5>
- *Focus Taiwan news Channel* 3/8/12 **Lawmaker grill officials over new ractopamine policy**  
<http://bit.ly/yQxa7b>
- *TheHorse.com* 3/8/12 **Opposition to Proposed Mo. Horse Processing Plant Arises**  
<http://bit.ly/zbEa47>
- *Wicked Local Harvard* 3/7/12 **National Humane Society honors Mass. legislators**  
<http://bit.ly/xHQoJw>
- *FoodNavigator-USA.com* 3/7/12 **'Infodemiology' on the rise to tackle foodborne illness outbreaks**  
<http://bit.ly/A2u0kx>
- *Las Vegas Review-Journal* 3/8/12 **How food safety knowledge can affect your health**  
<http://bit.ly/xaz65o>
- *CBS DC* 3/7/12 **USDA Updating Twitter Accounts To Be State Specific**  
<http://cbsloc.al/w4nDHN>
- *Federal News Radio* 3/7/12 **USDA uses Twitter to issue urgent food safety alerts**  
<http://bit.ly/wSgt0z>
- *TalkTVworld.com* 3/7/12 **Food Network to Premiere MEAT MEN, 4/9**  
<http://bit.ly/xeBYmF>

- *Meatingplace* 3/7/12 **Chicken plant worker in critical condition after accident**

<http://bit.ly/xWdUCA>

- *WFAA.com – Dallas/Fort Worth* 3/7/12 **Hidden pipe discovered at Dallas slaughterhouse**

<http://bit.ly/ABiZut>

### **Other Articles of Interest** (Paid Subscription Required)

- *Food Chemical News* 3/7/12 **F&WW says sanitation records at HIMP plants don't mirror USDA claims**
- *Wall Street Journal* 3/7/12 **Slaughterhouse Shutdowns Ruffle Local-Food Movement**
- *Food Chemical News* 3/7/12 **Re. Kucinich, long-time GE labeling advocate, loses in primary**

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## **Congressional Summary**

March 8, 2011

### **Today's Legislative Schedule**

The House convenes at 10 a.m. and is expected to pass a measure meant to improve access to the public capital markets, which would theoretically spur job creation for small and medium-size companies. The bill is part of a House GOP effort to create a jobs agenda with broad appeal that puts pressure on Senate Democrats.

The Senate convenes at 9:30 a.m. Members reached an agreement late Wednesday that could pave the way for passage of its surface transportation bill next week. Under the agreement, there could be floor votes on 30 amendments to the package, starting with a series of votes on non-germane amendments Thursday. Meanwhile, House Republicans remain deadlocked over a \$260 billion, five-year reauthorization, with leaders unable to bridge intraparty divisions over the duration, price tag, and scope of the measure.

### **Congressional Hearings, Meetings, and Mark-ups**

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies (Kingston, R-GA) will hold the following hearing:

- **TODAY : "Budget Hearing - Department of Agriculture - Under Secretary for Food Safety." The hearing will take place at 10:30 a.m. in 2362-A Rayburn House Office Building. Witnesses include: Dr. Elizabeth A. Hagen, USDA's Under Secretary for Food Safety; Alfred V. Almanza, Administrator, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service; and Mr. Michael Young, Budget Officer, USDA.**

The Senate Agriculture Committee (Stabenow, D-MI) will hold the following hearings:

- March 14: "Healthy Food Initiatives, Local Production and Nutrition"
- March 21: "Risk Management and Commodities in the 2012 Farm Bill"

The House Agriculture Committee (Lucas, R-OK) will hold the following meeting:

- March 7: to consider its "Views and Estimates" report that will be forwarded to the House Budget Committee for use in drafting the 2013 concurrent budget resolution. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. in 1300 Longworth.

### **Other News**

*None to report.*

**Cathy Cochran, Public Affairs Specialist**

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[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)

[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](https://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)

[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

**From:** [Khan, Atiya - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 9, 2012  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:15:21 AM

---

And these are only a select few of the articles published about pink slime..

---

**From:** Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:57 AM  
**To:** Khan, Atiya - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - March 9, 2012

**Wow. Talk about pink slime!**

Carmen M. Rottenberg  
Chief of Staff

Office of the Administrator

Food Safety and Inspection Service

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---

**From:** Khan, Atiya - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:55 AM  
**To:** FSIS - Food Safety News  
**Cc:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Naessens, Katie - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; Brownlee, Jim - OC; Halbrook, Brenda - FNS; (b) (6)@obpa.usda.gov'; (b) (6)@fns.usda.gov'; (b) (6)@obpa.usda.gov'; (b) (6) n; (b) (6)@oc.usda.gov'; (b) (6)@OMB.EOP.GOV'; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavalley, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Subject:** Food Safety eNews - March 9, 2012

## **FOOD SAFETY NEWS**

March 9, 2012

- *ABC News 3/8/12 Is pink slime in the beef at your grocery store?*  
<http://abcn.ws/zUA3kM>
- *ABC News 3/8/12 70 percent of ground beef at supermarkets contain 'pink slime'*



<http://abcn.ws/w3pZ7Q>

- CBS DC 3/9/12 **Debate rages on over safety of eating 'pink slime' beef**

<http://cbsloc.al/yFkH7a>

- Fox News 3/8/12 **'Pink slime:' Combo of connective tissue, scraps hidden in your kids' lunch**

<http://fxn.ws/w7BHLd>

- CBS News 3/8/12 **Report: USDA school lunch meat contains "pink slime"**

<http://bit.ly/yji6Gs>

- The Seattle Times 3/8/12 **Treated beef dubbed 'pink slime' to show up in school lunches**

<http://bit.ly/yZgEW0>

- The Sacramento Bee 3/8/12 **Boneless lean beef trimmings (BLBT) is safe and wholesome beef products made by separating lean beef from fat**

<http://bit.ly/Aciuhl>

- Food Safety News 3/9/12 **House panel debates new poultry inspection rule**

<http://bit.ly/zft9q4>

- Center for Science in the Public Interest 3/8/12 **Antibiotic-resistant bacteria sickened 167, hospitalized 47 in 2011**

<http://bit.ly/zVbVlf>

- Food Safety News 3/9/12 **Salmonella illnesses on decline in Europe**

<http://bit.ly/zOXLbo>

- Federal News Radio 3/8/12 **USDA uses Twitter to issue urgent food safety alerts**

<http://bit.ly/wSgt0z>

**Other Articles of Interest** (Paid Subscription Required)

- MeatPoultry.com 3/8/12 **Meat industry counters boneless lean beef critics**

- Food Chemical News 3/9/12 **NACMPI to discuss HIMP**

- Food Chemical News 3/9/12 **Salmonella in retail meats increased in 2010, NARMS report shows**

- Food Chemical News 3/9/12 **FSIS to conduct 12-month baseline on raw liquid eggs**

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<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthWhatIsAccount.html>.

## **Congressional Summary**

March 9, 2012

### **Today's Legislative Schedule**

The House convenes at 11:00 a.m. for pro forma session.

The Senate is not in session.

### **Congressional Hearings, Meetings, and Mark-ups**

The Senate Agriculture Committee (Stabenow, D-MI) will hold the following hearings:

- March 14: "Healthy Food Initiatives, Local Production and Nutrition"
- March 21: "Risk Management and Commodities in the 2012 Farm Bill"

### **Other News**

Yesterday, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies (Kingston, R-GA) held a hearing to discuss the FY 2013 USDA budget request for food safety. USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety, Dr. Elisabeth Hagen testified, and was accompanied by FSIS Administrator, Mr. Al Almanza and USDA Budget Director, Mr. Michael Young. Dr. Hagen and Mr. Almanza's testimonies are posted on the Committee's website at <http://appropriations.house.gov/Calendar/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=282487>.

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Atiya Khan  
Legislative Analyst

Congressional & Public Affairs Office  
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[atiya.khan@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:atiya.khan@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe:

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often    **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature    **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - Tuesday, March 6, 2012  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 12:02:32 PM

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We already have an issue paper on ammoniated beef, but we'll take a look at the news stories and see if anything needs to be added to the message contained therein.

Christopher Gould  
Congressional & Public Affairs Office  
USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service  
202-690-4546 (desk)  
202-365-0186 (cell)  
202-720-5704 (fax)

**Be Food Safe:**

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**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 11:30 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: Food Safety eNews - Tuesday, March 6, 2012

We need to be sure that Dr. Hagen has talking points on this for Thursday.

**From:** [Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Food Safety eNews - Tuesday, March 6, 2012  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 11:36:46 AM

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Sorry. Pink slime.

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**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 10:32 AM  
**To:** Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS; Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Food Safety eNews - Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Which one - Pink slime?

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
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[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 11:30 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: Food Safety eNews - Tuesday, March 6, 2012

We need to be sure that Dr. Hagen has talking points on this for Thursday.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 10:16 AM  
**To:** FSIS - Food Safety News  
**Cc:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Naessens, Katie - OSEC; (b) (6) - OC; Brownlee, Jim - OC; Halbrook, Brenda - FNS; (b) (6)@obpa.usda.gov' <(b) (6)@obpa.usda.gov>; (b) (6)@fns.usda.gov' <(b) (6)@fns.usda.gov>; 'mes@obpa.usda.gov' <'mes@obpa.usda.gov'>; Greenlee, Karen; 'Sarah.Misailidis@oc.usda.gov' (b) (6)

[REDACTED]

## **FOOD SAFETY NEWS**

March 6, 2012

- *Food Safety News* 3/6/12 **USDA's Merrigan: No One Gets a Pass on Food Safety**  
<http://bit.ly/zFOBHI>
- *Mashable* 3/6/12 **U.S. Offers Food Safety Alerts on Twitter, State by State**  
<http://on.mash.to/yZ82Ou>
- *Meatingplace* 3/6/12 **FSIS notice on veal and beef fabrication antimicrobial interventions**  
<http://bit.ly/yR7cDU>
- *Huffington Post* 3/5/12 **Pink Slime For school Lunch: Government Buying 7 Million Pounds of Ammonia-Treated Meat for Meals**  
<http://huff.to/wu5Cve>
- *Business Insider* 3/5/12 **The USDA Thinks It's OK For Kids To Eat 'Pink Slime' In School Lunches**  
<http://read.bi/wAdEmf>
- *Gothamist* 3/5/12 **Government Buying 7 Million Pounds of "Soylent Pink" To Serve In Schools**  
<http://bit.ly/zern4a>
- *Fox 28 – Elkhart, IN* 3/5/12 **Syracuse company recalling pizza sticks**  
<http://bit.ly/z8d9eY>
- *The Herald News* 3/5/12 **U.S. Dept. of Agriculture launches new food safety feeds**  
<http://bit.ly/wprdPq>
- *The Jamestown Sun* 5/6/12 **Twitter Feeds on Food Safety**  
<http://bit.ly/wcOAFK>
- *The Hill – Blog* 5/6/12 **Farm Bill necessary for nation's food security (Commentary/Blog)**  
<http://bit.ly/xJCGQq>

- *Dallas Observer – Blog* 5/6/12 **Think Last Night's Burger Made You Feel Sick Today? Think Again.**

<http://bit.ly/wee57C>

- *The Pig Site* 5/6/12 **Finland is Now on ASF Alert**

<http://bit.ly/xnKHPx>

\*\*\*\*\*

Note: You may access the electronic version of Food Safety News any time at <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov>.

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<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthWhatIsAccount.html>.

## **Congressional Summary**

March 6, 2012

### **Today's Legislative Schedule**

The House convenes at noon. The Chamber will vote on a bill that would allow the government to impose punitive tariffs on imported goods from state economies such as China's.

The Senate convenes at 10 a.m. The Chamber will hold a cloture vote on a substitute amendment to the surface transportation bill. The amendment, offered by Majority Leader Reid combines provisions from four committees and incorporates the text of 37 germane amendments on which negotiators have already agreed.

### **Congressional Hearings, Meetings, and Mark-ups**

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies (Kingston, R-GA) will hold the following hearing:

- **March 8: "Budget Hearing - Department of Agriculture - Under Secretary for Food Safety." The hearing will take place at 10:30 a.m. in 2362-A Rayburn House Office Building. Witnesses include: Dr. Elizabeth A. Hagen, USDA's Under Secretary for Food Safety; Alfred V. Almanza, Administrator, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service; and Mr. Michael Young, Budget Officer, USDA.**

The Senate Agriculture Committee (Stabenow, D-MI) will hold the following hearings:

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The House Agriculture Committee (Lucas, R-OK) will hold the following meeting:

- March 7: to consider its "Views and Estimates" report that will be forwarded to the House Budget Committee for use in drafting the 2013 concurrent budget resolution. The

meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. in 1300 Longworth.

### **Other News**

*None to report.*

Bill Bagley

Public Affairs Specialist

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<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Kishore, Rita - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: For Cooking Only Notice  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:53:17 AM

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Thanks Rita. I don't know what policy is thinking. We don't want another news like the one about "pink slime" Just read an article on GZ. (b) (6)

Boneless lean beef trimmings are pictured in this March 20, 2012 handout photo courtesy of Beef Products Inc.

Credit: Reuters/Beef Products Inc./Handout

By [Carey Gillam](#)

Kansas City | Sun Mar 25, 2012 6:38pm EDT

Kansas City (Reuters) - Every time someone calls former U.S. government scientist Gerald Zirnstein a whistleblower, he cringes a little.

When he coined the term "Pink Slime" to describe the unlabeled and unappetizing bits of cartilage and other chemically-treated scrap meat going into U.S. ground beef, Zirnstein was a microbiologist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

He made the slime reference to a fellow scientist in an internal - and he thought private - email. But that email later became public, and with it came an explosion of outrage from consumer groups.

Descriptions of a mix of fatty beef by-products and connective tissue, ground up and treated with ammonium hydroxide, then blended with ground beef have led the nation's largest supermarket chains to ban the product.

McDonald's said it would stop buying hamburger containing what the industry calls "finely textured beef," and the USDA has said school districts can opt out of feeding it to children.

For food safety advocates, the campaign to reject Pink Slime has been wildly successful. Zirnstein said even though he never intended to publicize this issue, he does hope the furor will bring about change.

"You look through the regulations and a lot of that stuff was never approved for hamburger. It was under the radar," said the 54-year-old Zirnstein, who lives outside Washington, D.C. with his wife and 2-year-old son. "It's cheating. It's economic fraud," he



said in a telephone interview.

Zirnstien, who worked in a meat plant growing up in Kansas, said the situation came to his attention a decade ago. In 2002, he was working as a USDA food scientist and was assigned to a project to determine what was going into ground beef and whether the ingredients met federal regulations.

#### PET FOOD AND COOKING OIL

At the same time, the beef industry was asking the government to endorse a new product they called "lean finely textured beef" that was largely trimmings typically used for pet food and cooking oil. The trimmings were treated with ammonia to kill dangerous bacteria.

USDA officials approved the processed product. Zirnstien was disgusted, and made his opinion known to co-workers in an email that called the processed product "pink slime." The email was later released to the New York Times as part of a Freedom of Information request for a 2009 investigative article on food safety. The newspaper article mentioned the slime reference in passing.

"Nobody did anything (about pink slime). USDA dropped the ball again. The meat industry soft sold it," said Zirnstien, who left USDA and took a job as an industry consultant but now is unemployed. The issue got renewed life when British celebrity chef Jamie Oliver, who advocates for American children to eat healthier food, devoted an episode of his television show to the topic in April last year.

Disgusted by the product, consumer activist organizations, food safety blogs and the media have pounced on the issue. More than a million people have watched a YouTube video of Oliver's show, an online petition has begun and consumers have complained to major grocery companies.

The American Meat Institute says the product is 98 percent lean beef and USDA continues to say it is safe. But that has not stopped a parade of major supermarket chains and fast food companies from spurning the product.

"The whole thing went viral ... Just blew the top off everything," said Zirnstien. Zirnstien said he worried at first about being deemed a whistleblower, but now does not care. "I am really an involuntary whistleblower," he said. But he added, "It looks like pink slime. That is what I said." Asked if he and his family still eat hamburgers, Zirnstien sighed. "The labels aren't clear, so we don't eat it. That's the thing," he said. "It isn't freaking labeled."

Dr. (b) (6)

Export Program Staff Officer

Office of International Affairs

U.S.D.A., F.S.I.S

1400 Independence Avenue, SW, 2135-S

Washington,DC 20250-3700

Office (b) (6)

---

**From:** Kishore, Rita - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:48 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Harries, Rick - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: For Cooking Only Notice

(b) (6)

As soon as the notice is posted we will get inquiries from foreign countries if the product with this label has been shipped to them. I would suggest that we have talking points ready before this notice gets posted.

We should also have some idea what countries this kind of product was exported.

Rita

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:35 AM

**To:** Harries, Rick - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6)

(b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: For Cooking Only Notice

Hi (b) (6) attached is my comment. Thanks. (b) (6)

<< File: Edits Draft Instructional For Cooking Only Notice IPD comments Clean.docx shinn's comment..docx >>

Dr. (b) (6)

Export Program Staff Officer

Office of International Affairs

U.S.D.A., F.S.I.S

1400 Independence Avenue, SW, 2135-S

Washington,DC 20250-3700

Office (b) (6)

---

**From:** Harries, Rick - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:09 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS;

Kishore, Rita - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: For Cooking Only Notice

Please review and have comments back to me by 3:00. Thanks.

Rick Harries

Director, Export Programs Staff

Office of International Affairs, FSIS, USDA

202-720-6508

Rick.Harries@fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:36 AM

**To:** Harries, Rick - FSIS; Kishore, Rita - FSIS; Schroeder, Carl - FSIS

**Cc:** Mian, Haroon - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: For Cooking Only Notice

This is the draft FSIS notice for your review and comment. We would like to move this into official clearance ASAP so please provide your comments by mid-afternoon.

(b) (6)

International Policy Division

Office of Policy and Program Development

Food Safety and Inspection Service

Phone: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

FAX: 202.720.4929

<< File: Edits Draft Instructional For Cooking Only Notice IPD comments Clean.docx >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: Report Supermarket Ground Beef Contains "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:44:25 AM

---

Thanks for sharing. I was wondering last night when these guys were here. The story also talked about some under secretary who went to work for one of these outfits that had profited from the use of this slime, which she had approved.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: Report Supermarket Ground Beef Contains 'Pink Slime'

Thanks for always keeping us "in the know". I remember both Gerry Zirnstein and Carl Custer when they worked in OPHS.....Carl always struck me as a decent knowledgeable guy.

(b) (6), EEO Specialist

**Complaints Management Branch, Civil Rights Division, USDA-FSIS**

**5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Building 1, Room 2260, Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Phone (b) (6) Fax: (301) 504-7746**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:14 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OM/CRD/Headquarters  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Emailing: Report Supermarket Ground Beef Contains 'Pink Slime'

Just so you know, and in case it should come up in conversation with our customers, this "pink slime" story was on ABC News last night, and the Department may be trying to do some spin control today. It didn't sound very good. Essentially, a couple of former USDA scientists have blown the whistle on the Department for allowing the plants and others to add a cheap meat substitute to our hamburger. Just a few weeks ago, McDonalds discontinued the practice.

<< File: Report Supermarket Ground Beef Contains 'Pink Slime' - Boston News Story - WCVB Boston.htm >>

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) - OC](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Expired Meat  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 2:19:12 PM

---

Let us know if there are any flags after talking to her.

---

**From:** [\(b\) \(6\) - OC](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 12:17 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** Fw: Expired Meat

Dirk, fyi

---

**From:** [\(b\) \(6\)](#) [mailto:[\(b\) \(6\)](#)@kyw.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 01:06 PM  
**To:** Chan, Stephanie - OC  
**Subject:** RE: Expired Meat

Hi Stephanie!

I hadn't heard back from you, so I figured I'd check in to see if you have some answers for me. Please let me know. Thanks!

- [\(b\) \(6\)](#)

---

**From:** [\(b\) \(6\)](#)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:47 AM  
**To:** 'Chan, Stephanie - OC'  
**Subject:** Expired Meat

Hi Stephanie!

I hope you are doing well (I was last in touch about pink slime). I'm emailing because I'm working on a story about stores selling outdated/expired food, when it's safe to eat and when it's not safe.

I understand the USDA has jurisdiction over meat, and I'm wondering if it's a violation for stores to sell meat past the sell by date? If not, why? When does meat on shelves become a safety concern?

I've also been told that stores can visually inspect meat that is past the sell by date, and if it looks okay they can repackage it and put a new sell by date. How many times can that happen? Does the person inspecting the meat have certain qualifications? Why is that allowed?

Is it true that no matter how old meat is, if you cook it to the recommended temperature a person won't get sick? Or how long is meat really okay for?

Please let me know you got this email, and you're looking in to it. I'd like the answers asap, preferably by 2pm tomorrow. Thank you in advance!

Sincerely,

[\(b\) \(6\)](#), CBS-3 Philadelphia Health Producer  
[\(b\) \(6\)](#)

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: exports  
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:33:56 PM

---

Yes I have been reading your linked articles and following the meeting place blogs/articles. What a circus. Not sure why the agency is not doing a better job of advocating for this product. Too late now...

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:21 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: exports

I agree. Have you been reading any of the articles on MeatingPlace? I posted the links I emailed to everyone yesterday in the comments of some of the articles today – people are saying LFTB is mechanically separated, so it should have to be declared, that it's dog food, that it's salvaged from the floor, etc. it's so crazy! BPI was given awards and was featured in a NY Times article in 2008 for this technology, but it wasn't until it was called "pink slime" and totally misrepresented that there was an issue. I shutter to think what people would say if they saw uncooked hotdog/sausage/lunchmeat paste! ☺ It's crazy. What's worse is that the Agency isn't really doing anything to support the product or the process – why aren't there commercials and ads and posters attesting to it's safety!? (It's because the media doesn't care about the truth, just the bubble-gum paste called "pink slime"!)

(b) (6), DVM

Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian

USDA-FSIS-OFO Albany District - Buffalo Circuit

Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

*Changes come like waves in the ocean. We can either ride each wave and have some fun with it, or let it pound us into the sand. Fither way, the waves keep coming!*

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:15 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: exports

I have been following this for the past couple of weeks and I agree about it being bad. BPI has really has been thrown under the bus on this. Certainly not for the right reasons.

(b) (6) is not off. I emailed (b) (6) because I was curious.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:56 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: exports

It's bad bad bad! I was just reading a bunch of the articles on the MeatingPlace about all this – some of the opinions out there are so messed up! Everyone wants it on the label, but what would it say – “regular beef” and “fine beef”? It's crazy....

Is (b) (6) off this week?

(b) (6), DVM

Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian

USDA-FSIS-OFO Albany District - Buffalo Circuit

Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

*Changes come like waves in the ocean. We can either ride each wave and have some fun with it, or let it pound us into the sand. Fithet way, the waves keep coming!*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:42 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: exports

Just Sunday but who knows for this weekend. I originally heard it was going to be both days, but a final decision was not make until early afternoon Friday.

I ask (b) (6) about AFA's use of BPI product in there beef this morning. He said all but one customer has notified them they do not want BPI product in their ground beef. They were using 10-15% in most of their ground beef batches. It pretty amazing how quickly things can change.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:33 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** exports

Did you have exports last weekend? Just trying to figure out the chance I'll have exports both days this weekend ☺

(b) (6), DVM

Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian

USDA-FSIS-OFO Albany District - Buffalo Circuit

Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

*Changes come like waves in the ocean. We can either ride each wave and have some fun with it, or let it pound us into the sand. Either way, the waves keep coming!*



**From:** [Taylor, Kimberly A - APHIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FAVOR  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 7:48:43 AM

---

That does indeed help, (b) (6)—thanks so much! We'll await further word from you...appreciate it!

Kim

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 5:24 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Kimberly A - APHIS  
**Subject:** Re: FAVOR

Hi Kim, after the department's latest announcement, which included a policy change for the NSLP, we are revising our messaging on this one. Having said that, I expect the new language to be approved fairly shortly, probably next week.

I can forward you cleared language when we have it.

Does that help at all?

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Taylor, Kimberly A - APHIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 12:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FAVOR

Could you please send me any language you've developed addressing the pink slime issue? One of our folks in particular is being inundated, and we thought it made more sense just to answer using the language you've developed (rather than forwarding to you). Thanks so much, (b) (6)

Kim

Kim Taylor  
Assistant Director  
LPA-Executive Communications  
APHIS-USDA  
2B-02C  
Unit 49, 4700 River Road  
Riverdale, Maryland 20737

**\*\*Please note new phone # : (301) 851-4089\*\***

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Finely textured beef claims  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 8:04:17 AM

---

As Wheeler would say, "Good Luck" (back to Wheeler)

(b) (6)  
USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Patriots Plaza III  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov  
(b) (6) (Main Line)  
(b) (6) (Desk)  
fax: 202-245-4795 or -4796

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 8:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Finely textured beef claims

I told (b) (6) not to make that coffee too strong:-) Hey, it's your turn to watch over (b) (6)

(b) (6) Physical Scientist  
Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD)  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division (LPDD)  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov  
[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_Fsis/Labeling\\_&\\_Consumer\\_Protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/Labeling_&_Consumer_Protection/index.asp)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 7:56 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Finely textured beef claims

What about icons? Like a X over pink slime?

(b) (6)  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Patriots Plaza III, 8-161B  
355 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024-3221  
(b) (6)

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Finely textured beef claims  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 8:23:58 AM

---

Don't approve anything related to finely textured beef or pink slime, words or icons.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 7:56 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Finely textured beef claims

What about icons? Like a X over pink slime?

(b) (6)  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Patriots Plaza III, 8-161B  
355 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024-3221  
(301) - 504-0878

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 7:32 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Finely textured beef claims

We are receiving multiple requests for the use of claims such as "contains no finely textured beef" or "contains finely textured beef." Do not approve them at this time. Dan is waiting to hear from the Administrator whether we should approve such a claim. We may get an update today. If you receive any requests, please forward them to my attention.

Thanks,

Jeff  
Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Finely textured beef claims  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 12:29:35 PM

---

Ha ha, that is too funny. It would have looked just like the Pink Slime:)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Finely textured beef claims

She should have worn pink :)

(b) (6), MSW, MPH

(b) (6), MSW, MPH  
Biological Sciences Technician  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA/FSIS/OPPD/LPDD  
Phone number: (b) (6)  
Fax number: (202) 245-4795 or (202) 245-4796  
Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_Fsis/Labeling\\_and\\_Consumer\\_Protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/Labeling_and_Consumer_Protection/index.asp)  
e-mail:

(b) (6)@usda.gov

To check the status of labels call (b) (6)

Please Note:

Our New Address to Send Labels to is:  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.-Stop 5273  
Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor Room 168  
Washington, DC 20250

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 8:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Finely textured beef claims

Yup all dressed up in RED!!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 7:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Finely textured beef claims

Yeah, I saw that press gathering on TV this morning. I thought I recognized our undersecretary :)

(b) (6), MSW, MPH

(b) (6), MSW, MPH  
Biological Sciences Technician  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA/FSIS/OPPD/LPDD





**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)@primelabel.com; (b) (6); (b) (6)@vantagefoods.net; [Ben StLouis](#)  
**Subject:** RE: finely textured beef  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 4:28:55 PM

---

Jeff,

Thanks so much for the update.

I will let my clients know.

Have a great weekend!

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS [mailto:Jeff.Canavan@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 2:57 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** finely textured beef

(b) (6)

Earlier this week you asked me about claims. We have an update. Claims such as "contains no finely textured beef" and "contains lean finely textured beef" can be approved. However, we will **not** approve claims referring to it as pink slime. These are claims that require sketch approval.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W. – Stop 5273  
Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor – Cubicle 161A  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (301) 504-0879  
Fax: (202) 245-4792

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**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Finely Textured Lean Beef (pink slime) - USDA guidelines  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:12:16 PM

---

Yes I followed up with her too

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:58 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Finely Textured Lean Beef (pink slime) - USDA guidelines

Aaron – (b) (6) so I'm flying solo this afternoon.

To my knowledge, we have not answered the labeling question on the record yet. The answer is: FSIS determined (in May 2001) that anhydrous ammonia did not have to be listed on the ingredients statement on the label of treated products since it is a processing aid.

Jarvis responded to Nippon TV Washington Bureau earlier today – the email that Justin forwarded to include the foreign folks. Shall we consider this closed? Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:04 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Finely Textured Lean Beef (pink slime) - USDA guidelines

---

**From:** Chan, Stephanie - OC  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:56 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** FW: Finely Textured Lean Beef (pink slime) - USDA guidelines

Missed this in the morning-

---

**From:** Gemma Haywood (NTV NY) [mailto:(b) (6)@ntvic.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:44 AM  
**To:** [stephanie.chan@usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.chan@usda.gov)  
**Subject:** Finely Textured Lean Beef (pink slime) - USDA guidelines

Dear Stephanie,



Many thanks for your help on the phone this morning. As I mentioned, we are working on a news report about the use of 'finely textured lean beef' also known as 'pink slime' in US beef products.

I would like to receive the statements / press releases / data that the USDA has released regarding the use of this product in the food served in US schools.

Could you also confirm whether or not the use of ammonium hydroxide or 'finely textured lean beef' has to be clearly identified on food labels (either in schools, supermarkets or elsewhere)? If a consumer would like to recognize whether or not this ingredient is used in a product, how can they do so?

Nippon Television is Japan's most popular broadcaster.

Best wishes,  
Gemma

**Gemma Haywood**

**Producer**  
**NTV New York Bureau / Nippon Television**

645 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 303  
New York NY 10022

Office: +1 212-660-6962  
Cell: +1 (b) (6)  
Fax: +1 212-265-8495  
Email: [gemma.haywood@ntvic.com](mailto:gemma.haywood@ntvic.com)  
Web: [www.ntv.co.jp/zero/](http://www.ntv.co.jp/zero/)

**From:** [Lisa Picard](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FOIA supervisor?  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:17:38 PM

---

We are working on “pink slime” here today. big thing that makes me feel better is that mechanically separated turkey is labeled, by fsis regs it has to be...

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS [mailto:Carol.Blake@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:11 PM  
**To:** Lisa Picard  
**Subject:** RE: FOIA supervisor?

LOL!

---

**From:** Lisa Picard [mailto:lpicard@turkeyfed.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:10 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FOIA supervisor?

Look at you – hiring folks left and right!!! ☺

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS [mailto:Carol.Blake@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:37 PM  
**To:** Lisa Picard  
**Subject:** RE: FOIA supervisor?

Nope, (b) (6) is no longer the acting supervisor. We hired (b) (6), who is terrific. Her number is (b) (6).

### ***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)



Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** Lisa Picard [mailto:lpicard@turkeyfed.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:24 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** FOIA supervisor?

Is (b) (6) still FOIA supervisor? Or is there someone else you would prefer I refer folks to?

Thank you!

Lisa

**Lisa Wallenda Picard**

Vice President of Scientific and Regulatory Affairs

National Turkey Federation

1225 New York Ave., NW

Suite 400

Washington, DC 20005

Office: 202-898-0100, ext. (b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

E-mail: [lpicard@turkeyfed.org](mailto:lpicard@turkeyfed.org)

Web Site: [www.eatturkey.com](http://www.eatturkey.com)



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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Leach, Alicemary - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Following up to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 2:29:26 PM

---

Thanks Rene for mentioning this.

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 2:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Following up to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

This was a good lookout (b) (6)

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director

ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building

Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250

Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 2:25 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Following up to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

Thanks everyone.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director

ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building

Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250

Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:14 PM  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** Following up to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

Re: Mr. Hellmer's e-mail.

Spoke with Jeff Canavan about this and am looping him in case he wishes to expand on this.

“Fresh” can be used to describe ammoniated beef. The ammonia has momentary affect and no functional or technical effects in the finished meat or poultry product. It is an antimicrobial intervention, but it is not an added substance.

Rene, we will follow up with a letter to Mr. Hellmer on this (7196210). Thank you, again, Patrice for bringing this forward.

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst

USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff

1400 Independence Avenue, SW. . Room 1166 . Washington D.C. 20250

(b) (6) (W) . (202) 720-7609 (F) . (b) (6) (C)

e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

**Be Food Safe.** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:41 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** Re: Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

Thanks (b) (6)

Theresa, please take a look at this.

Thanks.

Rene' Cardwell

Deputy Director, ECIMS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service

Room 1163-S

Washington, D.C. 20250

(202) 720-9945- Office

(202) 503-7113- BB

(202) 205-0158- Fax

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:39 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

To All,

There are occasions when correspondent will reply back even when I say not to reply to this mailbox. I normally just ignore their reply backs after I read them but I thought that this might be something that you might want to look into. Thanks

---

**From:** Bruce A. Hellmer, P.E. [mailto:(b) (6)@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:26 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

Thank you for the information. However, the letter from Daniel L. Engeljohn, Ph.D. dated March 29, 2012 is in conflicts with the policy he referenced.

Engeljohn wrote:

*FSIS policy would not prohibit the use of the claim "fresh" on ground beef in which lean finely textured beef is used as an ingredient.*

From USDA Food Standards and Labeling policy book:

*FRESH," "NOT FROZEN" AND SIMILAR TERMS WHEN LABELING MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS:*

*The word —fresh" may not be used to describe:*

...

*7. Any product treated with an antimicrobial substance or irradiated.*

...

I suggest that "Pink Slime" fumigated with poisonous ammonia gas to kill antimicrobials should be considered a "*product treated with an antimicrobial substance*".

I request a reply addressing this apparent conflict.

Bruce A. Hellmer

610 NE Swann Circle

Lee's Summit, MO. 64086

(816) 525-0584

(b) (6) [hotmail.com](mailto:(b) (6)@hotmail.com)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:28 AM

**To:** (b) (6)@hotmail.com

**Subject:** Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

\*\*\*\*PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MAILBOX\*\*\*\*

Dear Sir or Madam:

Attached is the response to your email sent to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool on March 15, 2012, regarding the labeling of fresh ground beef. I hope that the response provided is very helpful to you. Thanks

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Gatewood, James - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Don't be a hater  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:32:08 AM

---

Don't be a hater.....love it. What's with the 207and counting?

Don't even start that if it means what I think it means. :)

(b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, FO  
Frontline Supervisor  
Indianapolis, IN  
317-730-1162  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:28 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Don't be a hater

(b) (6) (b) (6) Please don't be a hater sending out this propaganda. Come-on a little connective tissue never hurt anyone. They are worried about pink slime and not worried about white slime aka.. mechanically separated chicken? If you ever see mechanically separated chicken produced you would never eat cheap variety meat hotdogs again. A good description of the appearance is squished up spinal cords with a little bit of pink mixed in (which is from the lungs they leave in) and some little yellow bits thrown in to add a little color. There is one plus they have a lot of calcium from the ground up bones. I will leave up to your imagination what the yellow bits might be.

I think that Mr. Custer might be a disgruntled former USDA employee and possibly a chicken farmer,(eat more Chicken) or owns taco bell or McDonalds stock? I personally think the poor little school children will be fine eating a little pink slime. I worry more about unwashed lettuce that is harvested from the fields, placed directly into a bag. Being placed in the bag by extremely hard workers that get few breaks, work many hours no porta-pots close or not maintained, and nowhere to wash their hands..You get the picture right? workers can be mistreated but chickens can't be kept in cages. Our society is more concerned about the poor hogs getting to hot in the barn then the workers on the kill floor passing out from the heat.

Enjoy those organic veggies which contain no pesticides (no doesn't mean no in organics products) and no chemical fertilizer. They are only fertilized with good old manure. Free range chickens that a pecking the ground where all kinds of diseases come from. I personally want my Chickens raised in cages, fruits and veggies sprayed with pesticides and chemical fertilizers and I am good to go.

Btw the only reason pink slime is banned in the UK is because of BSE.. If you want a pink slime free burger.. Visit your local in-out burger... Isn't that right Chuck? Have a wonderful weekend to all and enjoy your hotdogs and bologna. Only 207 and counting ....



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Don't be a hater  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 2:40:52 PM

---

(b) (6)  
Thank you  
(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:50 PM  
**To:** Smith, Ladene - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Don't be a hater

I think you are right Ladene. At my house we drink organic milk, raise our own eggs and can a bunch of things like tomatoes and spaghetti sauce. We also slaughter our own chickens for making homemade chicken broth. I get tired of all of the additives that are being added to food products. It's nice to hear that others share the same feeling....

Have a good day.

(b) (6)  
Relief Consumer Safety Inspector  
USDA, FSIS, OFO  
Columbus, IN.

CELL: (707) 484-5436  
EMAIL: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov  
"Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle"

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Smith, Ladene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Don't be a hater

I think it's already there (b) (6) got to grow and raise our own food, besides food prices are so high I might be eating wild game, just call me Annie Oakley.  
PS: went food shopping over the weekend and wanted to get a pot roast, for the price I should have gotten a Prime Rib.....

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:46 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Don't be a hater

It is sure tempting to go Vegan. I think I may do that in a couple of years when the food supply becomes too corrupted.

(b) (6)  
Relief Consumer Safety Inspector  
USDA, FSIS, OFO  
Columbus, IN.

CELL: (b) (6)  
EMAIL: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov  
"Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle"

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 3:54 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Don't be a hater

Wow with that in mind going vegan doesn't seem so unappealing after all...Take care everyone and have a great weekend by the way don't forget to spring forward March the 11th..

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 10:28 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Don't be a hater

(b) (6) (b) (6) Please don't be a hater sending out this propaganda. Come-on a little connective tissue never hurt anyone. They are worried about pink slime and not worried about white slime aka.. mechanically separated chicken? If you ever see mechanically separated chicken produced you would never eat cheap variety meat hotdogs again. A good description of the appearance is squished up spinal cords with a little bit of pink mixed in (which is from the lungs they leave in) and some little yellow bits thrown in to add a little color. There is one plus they have a lot of calcium from the ground up bones. I will leave up to your imagination what the yellow bits might be.

I think that Mr. Custer might be a disgruntled former USDA employee and possibly a chicken farmer, (eat more Chicken) or owns taco bell or McDonalds stock? I personally think the poor little school children will be fine eating a little pink slime. I worry more about unwashed lettuce that is harvested from the fields, placed directly into a bag. Being placed in the bag by extremely hard workers that get few breaks, work many hours no porta-pots close or not maintained, and nowhere to wash their hands..You get the picture right? workers can be mistreated but chickens can't be kept in cages. Our society is more concerned about the poor hogs getting too hot in the barn than the workers on the kill floor passing out from the heat.

Enjoy those organic veggies which contain no pesticides (no doesn't mean no in organics products) and no chemical fertilizer. They are only fertilized with good old manure. Free range chickens that are pecking the ground where all kinds of diseases come from. I personally want my Chickens raised in cages, fruits and veggies sprayed with pesticides and chemical fertilizers and I am good to go.

Btw the only reason pink slime is banned in the UK is because of BSE.. If you want a pink slime free burger.. Visit your local in-out burger... Isn't that right Chuck? Have a wonderful weekend to all and enjoy your hotdogs and bologna. Only 207 and counting ....

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 8:50 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
FSIS

Subject: Emailing: Pink Slim.docx

This was a very interesting article I ran across and thought I would share.  
Have a great weekend

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Pink Slim.docx

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Dr oz  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 9:33:06 AM

---

I think they called courtney on friday - I will track down the email and send so you guys have it for your files

----- Original Message -----

From: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 08:30 AM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Subject: Re: Dr oz

Ok, thx. I didn't know we had a call from them.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Cell: (202) 557-4736

----- Original Message -----

From: Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 08:23 AM  
To: Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Subject: Re: Dr oz

Yes - we recommended that they contact one of the trade groups like ncba or ami - we are not putting people on camera at this point.

----- Original Message -----

From: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 08:21 AM  
To: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
Subject: FW: Dr oz

Have we gotten a call or request from Dr. Oz? See below from NCBA.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (202) 557-4736  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Kristina Butts [mailto:(b) (6)@beef.org]

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:17 AM

To: Blake, Carol - FSIS

Subject: Dr oz

Hi there we got word this weekend that Dr. Oz will be airing another segment on 'pink slime'.  
Wondering if anyone at USDA or FSIS has been invited to be part of this show? Know it will not be balanced and working w bpi and others to see if/how we can help at all. Hope you're doing well and wish this story would calm down.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Draft of Ltr addressing concerns re quality of meat in schools (Meek)  
**Date:** Monday, August 15, 2011 12:50:46 PM

---

Thank you (b) (6) I will see what I can add to our response for signature. Hope the transition to the new office went smoothly. (b) (6)

(b) (6), RD  
Child Nutrition Division  
Nutrition Promotion and Technical Assistance Branch  
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA  
3101 Park Center Drive, 630  
Alexandria, VA 22302  
TEL: (b) (6) | FAX: 703-305-2549  
(b) (6) @fns.usda.gov

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---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2011 12:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** RE: Draft of Ltr addressing concerns re quality of meat in schools (Meek)

(b) (6)

This is the information we received from AMS about the use of ammonia, the memo referenced is enclosed...

**From:** (b) (6) (AMS) [mailto:(b) (6)@ams.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 8:56 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Draft of Ltr addressing concerns re quality of meat in schools (Meek)

Roz,

We developed a Decision Memo on the subject a little over a year ago. Here is some slightly modified verbiage taken out of the attached Decision Memo that should be able to respond to the question. Phil reviewed and commented for FSIS before this went forward.

Ammonium hydroxide is used as an antimicrobial to control pathogens, such as *E. coli* O157:H7, that may be present in beef. In the antimicrobial treatment, naturally occurring levels of ammonium hydroxide in beef are increased slightly to create a pH that eliminates harmful

bacteria. FSIS, after consultation with FDA, has determined that this use of ammonium hydroxide is safe and suitable for the production of meat products (FSIS Directive 7,120.1). Accordingly, FSIS allows beef component that were produced through the antimicrobial intervention treatment use of ammonium hydroxide to be used with no additional labeling statements in ground beef products (i.e., included in an ingredient list). It should be noted that ammonium hydroxide was subjected to a full safety review by the Select Committee on GRAS Substances, an independent committee of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology that reported its findings to FDA.

Ammonium hydroxide has been used in a variety of food products for over 50 years at levels up to 8,000 ppm. Beef industry use tests indicate levels of less than 40 ppm in cooked ground beef products manufactured with raw materials subjected to the ammonium hydroxide treatment. Cooked beef products that did not include raw materials subjected to ammonium hydroxide yielded similar results. Other products that contain ammonium hydroxide include baked goods, gelatins, puddings and cheese.

Let me know if this is sufficient or if you need something else. I can provide the Word document of the signed Memo if you want to utilize the copy function.

(b) (6)

*USDA will be migrating to a Departmental wide email system. My email address is changing to*

(b) (6) [@ams.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@ams.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD

Labeling and Program Delivery Division

Patriots Plaza III

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

301-504-0878 (Main Line)

(b) (6) (Desk)

fax: 202-245-4795 or -4796

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS [mailto:(b) (6)@fns.usda.gov]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 09, 2011 8:14 AM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: Draft of Ltr addressing concerns re quality of meat in schools (Meek)

Correct. We are not going to address the pink slime issue unless you can provide something that we can use.

---

**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 09, 2011 7:22 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FNS

**Subject:** RE: Draft of Ltr addressing concerns re quality of meat in schools (Meek)

(b) (6)

Sorry, things have been very crazy lately. I was waiting to get information from someone named Marty but I'm not sure what is going on. Also, the letter that was sent didn't really address the issue, so I think that made it confusing. I'll check on it, but we are still getting set up. I'm not even sure how to work my phone yet.

(b) (6)

USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD

Labeling and Program Delivery Division

5601 Sunnyside Ave., Stop 5273

Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

301-504-0879 (Main Line)

(b) (6) (Desk)

fax: 301-504-0875

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS [mailto:(b) (6)@fns.usda.gov]

**Sent:** Monday, August 08, 2011 8:49 AM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: Draft of Ltr addressing concerns re quality of meat in schools (Meek)

Hi Janice, Please let me know if LPDD has decided not to add to this response. Thank you, (b) (6)

(b) (6), RD

NPTAB – Nutrition & Technical Assistance

Child Nutrition Division

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Park Center, Suite 630

TEL: (b) (6) | FAX: 703-305-2549

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS

**Sent:** Thursday, July 14, 2011 1:59 PM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS

**Subject:** RE: Draft of Ltr addressing concerns re quality of meat in schools (Meek)

Hi (b) (6)

I hope all is running smoothly over at FSIS. We just found out this morning that our July 29<sup>th</sup> HUSSC White House event was cancelled by the office of the First Lady. Everyone feels very deflated as several folks have been placed through the ringer to get as far as we did before the cancellation.

I would appreciate your input on the three things I've included for you to assess if FSIS – LPDD



language needs to be added to the attached response. The inquiry was generated by the six minute *Jamie Oliver Food Revolution* segment viewable at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wshlnRWnf30>.

If you can, please take a look at the six minute segment regarding USDA policy for ammonia as a processing aid in ground meat and the attached inquiry and response. At this point, our response is limited to Child Nutrition Program process.

Let me know if you think the FNS response should/could address the FSIS policy on processing aids.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6), RD

NPTAB – Nutrition & Technical Assistance

Child Nutrition Division

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Park Center, Suite 630

TEL: (b) (6) | FAX: 703-305-2549

Be a Champion to End Hunger! [www.endhunger.usda.gov](http://www.endhunger.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 13, 2011 3:42 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FNS

**Subject:** Draft of Ltr addressing concerns re quality of meat in schools (Meek)

Hi (b) (6)

Here is the draft. Please let me know if you have revisions after you talk with (b) (6)

Thanks,

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT: Ammonium Hydroxide Fact Sheet - 22DEC11.doc - Plain Language initiative by RIMD  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:51:36 AM

---

Also, I think we should add some reference to pink slime and possibly have them (RIMD) answer some of the consumer questions we have actually received on the Hotline, if not already answered in the fact sheet. (b) (6) can help with that.....

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: DRAFT: Ammonium Hydroxide Fact Sheet - 22DEC11.doc - Plain Language initiative by RIMD

Very helpful fact sheet,

In addition to the safe food handling link, provided at the bottom of the document,

I think it would still be good to have cooking recommendations:

Cook all raw beef, pork, lamb and veal steaks, chops, and roasts to a minimum internal temperature of 145 °F as measured with a food thermometer before removing meat from the heat source. For safety and quality, allow meat to rest for at least three minutes before carving or consuming. For reasons of personal preference, consumers may choose to cook meat to higher temperatures.

Cook all raw ground beef, pork, lamb, and veal to an internal temperature of 160 °F as measured with a food thermometer.

Then, add the link with an intro e.g. "to read more about safe handling and preparing of meats..."--go to [Link]

Not sure this is needed, however, CDC also has good link with Q&A's such as:

**What happens to ammonia when it enters the environment?**

Ammonia is found throughout the environment in air, water, soil, animals, and plants.

Ammonia does not last very long in the environment. It is rapidly taken up by plants, bacteria, and animals.

**Ammonia does not build up in the food chain**, but serves as a nutrient for plants and bacteria.

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=10&tid=2>

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:30 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: DRAFT: Ammonium Hydroxide Fact Sheet - 22DEC11.doc - Plain Language initiative by RIMD

All...

This is the first in a series of plain language fact sheets that we agreed to review for RIMD. Timely subject, huh?

Please take a look....what do you think? Just on a brief look....I think they need to mention pink slime.....something to give an answer as to what it is.....

Maybe we need to ask them to write a fact sheet on meat glue....

Thanks!

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 12:48 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: DRAFT: Ammonium Hydroxide Fact Sheet - 22DEC11.doc - Plain Language initiative by RIMD

Hi (b) (6)

Attached please find the first RIMD fact sheet RIMD seeks to put in "Plain language." I have been reviewing Fact Sheets posted on your website to get ideas on how to improve the wording of the attached Fact Sheet. I am still trying to prioritize what Fact Sheets we would address after this first one. I would appreciate your feedback on the attached file when you can. Thank you.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2012 7:07 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** DRAFT: Ammonium Hydroxide Fact Sheet 22DEC11.doc

<< File: Ammonium Hydroxide Fact Sheet 22DEC11.doc >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT: Ammonium Hydroxide Fact Sheet - 22DEC11.doc - Plain Language initiative by RIMD  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:17:01 AM

---

Let me know what you think, I would like to have comments back to them by COB Friday since I will be out all next week.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT: Ammonium Hydroxide Fact Sheet - 22DEC11.doc - Plain Language initiative by RIMD

Great timing!

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:30 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: DRAFT: Ammonium Hydroxide Fact Sheet - 22DEC11.doc - Plain Language initiative by RIMD

All...

This is the first in a series of plain language fact sheets that we agreed to review for RIMD. Timely subject, huh?

Please take a look....what do you think? Just on a brief look....I think they need to mention pink slime.....something to give an answer as to what it is.....

Maybe we need to ask them to write a fact sheet on meat glue....

Thanks!

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 12:48 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: DRAFT: Ammonium Hydroxide Fact Sheet - 22DEC11.doc - Plain Language initiative by RIMD

Hi (b) (6)

Attached please find the first RIMD fact sheet RIMD seeks to put in "Plain language." I have been reviewing Fact Sheets posted on your website to get ideas on how to improve the wording of the attached Fact Sheet. I am still trying to prioritize what Fact Sheets we would address after this first one. I would appreciate your feedback on the attached file when you can. Thank you.

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Drover Cattle Network Article -- Slime wars – BPI responds  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 7:47:25 AM

---

Yes, My husband seen it on the news the other day and asked me about it. But he said it was pig slime this is wild how a story can change to that.

T

PS now I can tell him what it was really about,

Thanks

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:06 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Drover Cattle Network Article -- Slime wars – BPI responds

Ever heard of this “pink slime?”

(b) (6)

*Relief Consumer Safety Inspector*

*Chicago District 50-02*

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Drover Cattle Network Article -- Slime wars – BPI responds  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:22:32 AM

---

Yes,

I checked it out on the net last week it was exposed by a former USDA scientist who accused a former undersecretary of approving it then going to work for that company BPI.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:06 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Drover Cattle Network Article -- Slime wars – BPI responds

Ever heard of this “pink slime?”

(b) (6)

*Relief Consumer Safety Inspector*

*Chicago District 50-02*

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Drover Cattle Network Article -- Slime wars – BPI responds  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:35:46 PM

---

To me, it all comes down to “truth in labeling”. Consumer should know what is in the food they eat. Just as mechanically separated chicken, turkey, beef, pork, must be declared, I think the LFTB should also be declared.

*-Let not your heart be troubled-*

Thanks,

-(b) (6)

(b) (6) - Consumer Safety Inspector & Union Consultant

361 Sandy Lane - Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

☎ Work (b) (6) ☎ Cell (b) (6) ☎ (b) (6) 7 Fax (830) 997-9916

✉ e-mail - (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov or (b) (6) @yahoo.com

--“Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground”--

*In loving memory of AFGE Local 2873 President Larry Lenser*

--“It is better to die on your feet, than to live on your knees”--

*In loving memory of AFGE SW Council President Alex Gonzalez*

--“Ours lives are defined by opportunities; even the ones we missed!”— Benjamin Button

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:33 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Drover Cattle Network Article -- Slime wars – BPI responds

Although I really don't see anything wrong with the FTB process, it is a way for the establishments to harvest meat that would otherwise just be wasted, I do see one thing in the article that is definitely not true...the trimmings **do** come from trimmings from the primal cuts, but they are DEFINETLY not half lean and half fat trimmings. The trim used for FTB product is usually mostly fat with trace lean. If they are trying to portray that they are using 50/50 trim in FTB, then they are lying.

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Drover Cattle Network Article -- Slime wars – BPI responds  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 3:08:45 PM

---

Where? Who uses?

(b) (6)

*Relief Consumer Safety Inspector*

*Chicago District 50-02*

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:07 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Drover Cattle Network Article -- Slime wars – BPI responds

YEP!!! DuH ??

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:06 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Drover Cattle Network Article -- Slime wars – BPI responds

Ever heard of this “pink slime?”

(b) (6)

*Relief Consumer Safety Inspector*

*Chicago District 50-02*

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** [Almanza, Al - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: E.coli O157 Discussion  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 6:21:58 PM

---

Thanks so just to confirm bill is my 'friend' bill right?

---

**From:** Almanza, Al - FSIS [mailto:Al.Almanza@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 03:34 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: E.coli O157 Discussion

It went very well this morning. Yes, the pink slime thing just won't go away.

Let me check on (b) (6) and (b) (6)

Al

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@beef.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:45 PM  
**To:** Almanza, Al - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fwd: E.coli O157 Discussion

Hi there hope all went ok this morning! Gotta love pink slime huh ;). Do you think bill and teresa are the best two folks to have at this meeting from FSIS to talk pre harvest? Sorry to bug you and I hope you're doing well.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Kent D. McClure" <(b) (6)@ahi.org>

**Date:** March 8, 2012 4:36:01 PM EST

**To:** (b) (6)

(b) (6)  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: E.coli O157 Discussion

Bill Shaw and (b) (6) will be participating for FSIS

*Kent D. McClure, DVM, JD  
General Counsel  
Animal Health Institute  
1325 G Street, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-637-2440*

---

**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 2:55 PM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** E.coli O157 Discussion

Hello,

Attached is a draft agenda for our discussion on preharvest vaccine efficacy on the morning of March 16<sup>th</sup> in the NCBA DC office. Please let me know if you would like any changes.

Also, here is an update on the participants:

AMI – (b) (6)

NCBA – (b) (6)

CVB – (b) (6)

AHI – (b) (6)

FSIS – Both NCBA and AHI have contacted (b) (6). She has indicated that FSIS is interested and will participate. They are determining who to send.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Kent

*Kent D. McClure, DVM, JD  
General Counsel  
Animal Health Institute  
1325 G Street, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-637-2440*

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ECM Folders Requiring Your Review  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:39:42 PM

---

Both items are response letters to email submittals. Both responses have you as the signee and involve RTE and pink slime. Please give me a few minutes and I will forward the documents that you need to review and provide your concurrence for.

(b) (6)

Management Assistant

USDA, FSIS, OPPD

Risk, Innovations, and Management Division (RIMD)

Patriots Plaza 3

1400 Independence Avenue SW

Mailstop 3782

Room 8-163B

Washington, DC 20250-3700

(W) (b) (6)

(F) 202-245-4793

Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:36 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ECM Folders Requiring Your Review

Do you know if these are executive correspondence letters or are they something different? I don't currently have anything in my ECM folder. Thanks.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (202) 368-5457 -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:27 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** ECM Folders Requiring Your Review  
**Importance:** High

The following ECM folders need your review and clearance: 7199228 and 7196205. If you're unable to move the workflow forward, let me know and I will do so for you. Thank you.

(b) (6)

Management Assistant

USDA, FSIS, OPPD

Risk, Innovations, and Management Division (RIMD)

Patriots Plaza 3

1400 Independence Avenue SW

Mailstop 3782

Room 8-163B

Washington, DC 20250-3700

(W) (b) (6)

(F) 202-245-4793

Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [James Pearce](#)  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Elisabeth Hagen Non o157  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:37:02 AM

---

Thanks!! I can't wait to see what she says about "pink slime".

---

**From:** James Pearce [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 5:06 PM  
**To:** Styles, Martha - FSIS  
**Subject:** Elisabeth Hagen Non o157

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/qa-with-elisabeth-hagen-part-i-usdas-new-non-o157-stec-policy/>

Hi Dr. (b) (6)  
I thought you might like this interview.

Mr. Pearce

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:55:16 AM

---

For the record, I have been grinding my own beef for years, no BS..thanks (b) (6) I had a plant that used that for a while, and stopped, thankfully.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 5:24 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

Amazing what they (FSIS management) can get away with, glad to hear that USDA/FSIS scientist blew the whistle on this one!

It's slow, please wait for it to load, ok.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 5:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

<< File: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm  
>>



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 9:12:02 AM

---

How's your day?, I hope not so hectic,

Be well,

(b) (6) - *Investigator*

**USDA - FSIS OPEER CID**

**AMB Building # 75 – Room 245**

**North Hangar Road**

**JFK International Airport**

**Jamaica, New York 11430**

**Tel:** (b) (6)

**Fax:** (718) 244-5037

**Email:** (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

**Hi** (b) (6)

Good to hear from you again.

I just finished Per-op here 17990A, I still have plenty of work from yesterday to enter in PHIS.

Yesterday was another double up day, KC was out +& I still have to finish the data entry for it.

MLK was glad to get your last message, will you be helping Gladys, I think it would be good for her.....until we meet again, LL says stay well.

Thank you!

(b) (6)

USDA FSIS CSI 65-14

Long Island NY.

Email address: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

Thomas Jefferson quotation;

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:31 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

Thank you, good to hear from you,

I'm at the training, FLETC in Artesia until Saturday,

How are you ? Gladys contacted me today, but I did not get a chance talk to her, they open compliance position in Jamaica.

Be well, say ML K that I have an article for him.

(b) (6) - *Investigator*

USDA - FSIS OPEER CID

AMB Building # 75 – Room 245

North Hangar Road

JFK International Airport

Jamaica, New York 11430

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (718) 244-5037

Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 6:04:51 AM

---

Monty, my friend.

I'm an old butcher (1971), and as it has always been with us, that anything that goes into a fat can, or bone barrel, should stay there, like a grave!

But industry keeps messing with mother nature, and when they do, she gets right back in our face with things like BSE/ (and other unknown/diagnosed brain diseases as yet) possibility that there is a link to some of the people losing the minds lately!

Do you remember some talk years ago about chickens getting some form of disease from putting the scrap chicken parts back into their feed, and that was without the chemicals added.

Think about it, this is what is happening here in the USA, but can you think of what they are doing in Mexico & China,,,,, really,, no rules there!

P.S I talked with a cleaning company V.P, he is international rep , he was in China setting up the cleaning of the 3 Tyson's plant in China, he said they have no clue of sanitation/product safety/ or process control there, workers and their families and pets (as in future dinners) all live / eat / sleep/ die in those plants, makes you wonder what is on their plate for dinner, ( Ahh good food tonight look Its uncle Loe Main) LOL!

Yeah buddy don't say a word on it, let it die here and now, as it should.

Al.D

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:41 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

Some very interesting comments at the bottom. I've worked at a few BPI facilities, they are always connected to the Tyson/IBP plants. I thought about piping in and trying to explain this process to better educate, but it wouldn't help matters mainly because the thought of its use appalls even me.

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector-Relief

USDA/FSIS/FO

Monett MO Circuit

Lawrence District

Lawrence District EEOAC

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:24 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

Amazing what they (FSIS management) can get away with, glad to hear that USDA/FSIS scientist blew the whistle on this one!

It's slow, please wait for it to load, ok.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 5:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

<< File: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm  
>>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) (DO65) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:59:43 PM

---

Thanks (b) (6)

It's amazing what the big bosses can get away with!

---

**From:** (b) (6) (DO65) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 7:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

(b) (6)

Great Job, good article.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 5:24 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

Amazing what they (FSIS management) can get away with, glad to hear that USDA/FSIS scientist blew the whistle on this one!

It's slow, please wait for it to load, ok.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 5:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

<< File: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm  
>>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:12:10 PM

---

She is making me co-co train!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:11 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

Good to hear from you, feel so sorry for Rapacki's lost, I'm ok, very busy, try to catch – up, but not easy, was away 2 weeks. How is your daughter, I think the baby will coming soon,

Good luck, be well,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:07 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

Hi (b) (6)

Welcome back my friend.

If you want to know, you were missed very much by the crew & by LL / KC,

I hope you and your family (lil (b) (6) & (b) (6) are well, look Easter is almost here.

I'm told it's almost time to go to church & have the priest bless the eggs for all the polish families, oh I forgot to ask, I hope (b) (6) and her children are well.

I have bad news, friends of mine the (b) (6) lost their mother this weekend, she succumbed to her illness.

It was very sad news hear indeed , I like Mrs. (b) (6) very much, she was a part of my job here on L.I for the last 15 years.

P.S. (b) (6) just drove me nuts all day on Sunday!!!

When you see (b) (6) pouch that big nose.

Ok take care be well (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 9:12 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: 70 Percent of Ground Beef at Supermarkets Contains 'Pink Slime' - ABC News.htm

How's your day?, I hope not so hectic,

Be well,

(b) (6) - *Investigator*

**USDA - FSIS OPEER CID**

**AMB Building # 75 – Room 245**

**North Hangar Road**

**JFK International Airport**

**Jamaica, New York 11430**

**Tel:** (b) (6)

**Fax:** (718) 244-5037

**Email:** (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: Dem presses USDA to ban "pink slime" in school lunches - TheHill.com.htm  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:57:26 AM

---

Yes, Yes!

Fish shed Tolstoy , War and Peace, how about you

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 7:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: Dem presses USDA to ban 'pink slime' in school lunches - TheHill.com.htm

Good breakfast reading!

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >> (b) (6), *Relief CSI*

*Chandler's 02615 M*

*2727 Immanuel Drive*

*Greensboro, NC 27407*

*USDA phone* (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Emailing: Dem presses USDA to ban 'pink slime' in school lunches - TheHill.com.htm

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:12 AM  
**Subject:** Emailing: Dem presses USDA to ban 'pink slime' in school lunches - TheHill.com.htm

<< File: Dem presses USDA to ban 'pink slime' in school lunches - TheHill.com.htm >>





**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Emailing: Meatingplace.com - Daily News  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:04:40 AM

---

I heard this morning on the TODAY show that “pink slime” production has been halted in all plants in the U.S. except one in So. Dakota.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Emailing: Meatingplace.com - Daily News

As the Meat Turns!

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: complaints today?  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:13:30 PM

---

I've had 3. I hung up on the last caller because he was yelling at me for 5 minutes.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: complaints today?

No CCMS ones from me.. (b) (6)

Folks,

I would like to know if you all had any "pink slime" calls today – if so, how many, please?

Thank you

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: complaints today?  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:19:00 PM

---

One pink slime so far

**From:** (b) (6) - [Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: complaints today?  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:17:27 PM

---

Rien (none)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:17 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: complaints today?

Thank you sir

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: complaints today?

I have 2 calls today.

V/R,

(b) (6), MPH

LCDR, US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps  
Technical Information Specialist (Bilingual)  
USDA/FSIS/ FSE  
Room 2L244-C  
5601 Sunnyside Ave

Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6) Fax: 301-504-2092

(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

The mission of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of the Nation.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:59 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: complaints today?

No CCMS ones from me.. (b) (6)

Folks,

I would like to know if you all had any "pink slime" calls today – if so, how many, please?

Thank you

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:48 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** complaints today?

I have to run to a 3:00pm meeting, please forward any complaints to me, and I will file with CCMS when I return.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

*Food Safety Specialist*

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2-L248C, MS- 5269

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854

or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: complaints today?  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:16:26 PM

---

I thought I heard you earlier...

Sorry you had that one (b) (6)

I took 1 this morning and though she was not yelling, and kept her composure she quite looooooooooong in her comments, once I offered to take them...

..wasn't too bad actually

Her info was very mixed up – pink slime together with meats falling on floors to be further processed into ground beef..(explained to her that would be totally unacceptable) --makes you wonder what they're reading or listening to??

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:13 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: complaints today?

I've had 3. I hung up on the last caller because he was yelling at me for 5 minutes.



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: complaints today?  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 4:16:42 PM

---

Hi (b) (6)

Sorry- nothing from me. Thanks

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: complaints today?  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:56:40 PM

---

No chats on pink slime, fortunately.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: complaints today?

Thanks!

So far I've counted **8 pink slime calls today**—

Waiting to see if (b) (6) had any

(b) (6) you got the most (3), lucky you!

Any chats on 'pink slime?' (or were those included)??

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) (VDACS)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Component 7 for state office  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:07:55 AM

---

(b) (6)

Glad things are close to ready. (b) (6) is working on this but has been interrupted by investigating dumpster divers and stockyard ritual slaughter.  
I hope things are settling down so we can all get back to work, including issues with pink slime.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:41 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (VDACS)  
**Subject:** Component 7 for state office

Good morning, Dr. (b) (6). Everything appears to be set for the onsite review. I just wanted to touch base on the Component 7 information sheet which I sent out a few weeks ago. If the Compliance folks can get it filled out and returned it will save them a considerable amount of time in the office during the review. By laying out their selected supporting documents in sequential order of the questions they will be able to get through the component much faster thus freeing them up for any compliance duties they may have. I just returned for SC and they were able to save a lot of time by preparing things in advance. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns which I can address. I look forward to working with everyone again! Regards, (b) (6)

PS- I have attached another copy of the worksheet for review just in case you would like to refer to it.

(b) (6) Program Auditor  
USDA-FSIS-ICAD-OPEER-FSAB  
Salisbury Field Office  
212 West Main St.  
Plaza Gallery Building, Suite 302  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
Ph) (b) (6)  
BB) (b) (6) Pin: (b) (6)  
Fax) 410-341-3612

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Congrats to pink slime haters  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:43:02 AM

---

Good morning (b) (6) what plant are you at?

(b) (6)

*USDA, FSIS, FO  
Frontline Supervisor  
Indianapolis, IN  
317-730-1162  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:39 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; [gatewoodvegetablefarms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gatewoodvegetablefarms@sbcglobal.net)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Congrats to pink slime haters

<< File: Will BPI's Plant Closures Affect America's Ground Beef.htm >> Yes, so true Mr.

(b) (6)

Here is another article that goes with what you have said and was sent to me by via email.

I found this article just as interesting as the last. I thought I would share this if anyone hasn't already received it.

Have a Great Day

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; [gatewoodvegetablefarms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gatewoodvegetablefarms@sbcglobal.net)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Congrats to pink slime haters

To all the pink slime haters ... click the link below or you might have to copy and paste it in your browser .....the media frenzy that misrepresented the facts about finely textured beef is why the plants closed. But we can be thankful they are still feeding the little children mechanically separated turkey and chicken.

Actually let me be serious about something the reason this story had any legs is mainly because of Facebook and twitter. The power of social media is amazing and information and misinformation can spread like wildfire. As you can see it brought down BPI and that

is only the start. Companies can't live without social media and it might come to the point they can't live with it.

I can write an article about anything true or false and have it blasted out to 9000 facebook accounts, 46,000 twitter users, and 16,000 forums anonymously for under \$5.00 and so can anyone else that knows who to ask.(no I won't tell you how) My point being its doesn't matter if it's true or not if its posted on any social media and goes viral a company or a person reputation can be destroyed. By the time the facts get out the damage has already been done. This results are social media enables the haters, and they are not held accountable for the lies they spread that destroys reputations.

<http://bit.ly/GRi8Af>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)  
- FSIS; [gatewayvegetablefarms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gatewayvegetablefarms@sbcglobal.net)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Congrats to pink slime haters  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:39:30 AM  
**Attachments:** [Will BPI's Plant Closures Affect America's Ground Beef.htm](#)

---

Yes, so true Mr. (b) (6)

Here is another article that goes with what you have said and was sent to me by via email.

I found this article just as interesting as the last. I thought I would share this if anyone hasn't already received it.

Have a Great Day

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Congrats to pink slime haters  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:04:40 AM

---

So true.

Go Colts!

On Mar 29, 2012, at 7:54 AM, (b) (6) - FSIS"  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov> wrote:

Here is an email I sent to my fellow workers AKA Haters and info on the pink slime...  
The 2nd link I proved has a lot of news

<http://bit.ly/GRi8Afreed> read first after email

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/search-results.html?q=bpi> second after email



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Congrats to pink slime haters  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:18:45 PM

---

You have a point about social media. I am sure you have heard about the case in Florida involving the 17 year old unarmed boy who was shot and the neighborhood watch man who shot him. The Black panthers issued a bounty on the shooter to be brought to justice even though he has been in contact with the police and no arrest have been made. Some one tweeted Spike Lee the address of the shooter, Spike Lee retweeted the address to millions of people adding that some one should go get him. The problem was the address belongs to a 77 year old couple that has been scared so much that they moved in to a hotel while their house is being bombarded. So let that be a lesson.

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector

Chicago District Office

Circuit 50-23

(b) (6)

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#); [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Constituent call  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 1:34:33 PM

---

Thanks – I get with Linda W. regarding an appropriate response asap.

Peggy

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 1:22 PM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Riek, Peggy - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Constituent call

Jeff – do you have a recent response to CPA on this issue?

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 12:23 PM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Constituent call

Hi Peggy--We wouldn't issue guidelines on "pink slime." Directive 10,010.1 (O157:H7 directives) includes sampling instructions for ammoniated product. But I'm not sure that addresses the issue. I'm not sure what you're looking for. Something else that we've published?

---

**From:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 9:21 AM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** Constituent call

Rachel,

It was suggested here that I contact OPPD.

Are there any guidelines for pink slime (ammoniated boneless beef trimmings or similar products) on the web?

We have a constituent calling asking: “Who authorized the use of pink slime and under what guidelines?”

Is there any information we can give out at this time?

Thanks.

Peggy

Peggy Riek, Public Affairs Specialist

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Ave., SW, Rm. 1175-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202-720-7608; Fax: 202-690-0460

Margaret.Riek@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Constituent call  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 12:24:54 PM

---

The only questions are those that were included in the email sent. I will check the directive.

Thanks.

---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 12:23 PM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Constituent call

Hi Peggy--We wouldn't issue guidelines on "pink slime." Directive 10,010.1 (O157:H7 directives) includes sampling instructions for ammoniated product. But I'm not sure that addresses the issue. I'm not sure what you're looking for. Something else that we've published?

**From:** [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Constituent Update - March 23, 2012  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 4:27:00 PM

---

Good. Enjoy weekend.

-----  
Greg DiNapoli  
USDA/FSIS  
Congressional & Public Affairs  
W: 202.720.5509  
M: (b) (6)

---

**From:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 03:25 PM  
**To:** DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Constituent Update - March 23, 2012

No, it's nobody's fault. I am not getting into with him. Normally I would pick it up but I didn't. I will catch it next week.

---

**From:** DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 4:18 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Constituent Update - March 23, 2012

Its ok. Just leave it alone. And no need to get into it w Brian. I should have flagged it and was going to. Its my fault

-----  
Greg DiNapoli  
USDA/FSIS  
Congressional & Public Affairs  
W: 202.720.5509  
M: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 03:16 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Constituent Update - March 23, 2012

Yes, but since the press release went out on March 14, we had the canceled FNS call (slated for 3.21) that was cancelled because it went to a listserv and we had the NYTimes and a bunch of school districts signing up for it. Just trying to help keep us out of the doghouse. No big deal, just a mention. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 4:12 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Constituent Update - March 23, 2012

We can. It's the same one from the press release.

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 4:11 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Constituent Update - March 23, 2012

Linda and Greg,

Although too late now, I would have liked to change the lead stories headline to include something about microbiology so we don't get overrun by pink slime/LTF beef folks. If we get a second bite at the apple, maybe we can refine it:

## **NACMCF to Meet on Testing Methods for National School Lunch Program**

Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** FSIS Constituents  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 3:43 PM  
**To:** 'USDA-FSISCONSTITUENTS@newsbox.usda.gov'  
**Subject:** Constituent Update - March 23, 2012

## **Constituent Update**

**March 23, 2012**

<< File: Update 03.23.12.pdf >>

## **NACMCF to Hold Meeting on National School Lunch Program Purchases**

The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold a public meeting via teleconference on March 28 from 2 to 5 p.m. ET. Items on the agenda will include: assistance to the AMS with the Federal Purchase Ground

Beef Program; *Staphylococcus aureus* and other criteria used in the ground beef purchase for the NSLP; and alternative screening methods for ground beef beyond those in the FSIS Microbiology Laboratory Guidebook and determining acceptable screening procedures.

FSIS will finalize the agenda on or before the meeting and post it on the FSIS website at [www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings\\_&\\_Events/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings_&_Events/).

All documents related to the full committee meeting will be available at USDA-FSIS, Room 8-164, Patriots Plaza III, 355 E St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250. Documents will also be available at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/Federal\\_Register\\_Notices/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Federal_Register_Notices/index.asp). To register or to provide public comment, contact Karen Thomas-Sharp at (202) 690-6620 or [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov).

### ***NACMCF Seeks Nominations for Members***

Applications and nominations for membership are being sought from individuals with scientific expertise in the fields of epidemiology, food technology, microbiology (food, clinical, and predictive), risk assessment, infectious disease, biostatistics and other related sciences. Persons from the academia, industry, consumer groups, State governments and the federal government, as well as all other interested persons with such expertise, are invited to submit nominations. Members who are not federal government employees will be appointed to serve as non-compensated special government employees (SGEs). SGEs will be subject to appropriate conflict of interest statutes and standards of ethical conduct.

To receive consideration for serving on the NACMCF, nominees must submit a resume and USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755. The resume or curriculum vitae must be limited to five one-sided pages and should include educational background, expertise and a list of select publications. For submissions received that are more than five one-sided pages in length, only the first five pages will be reviewed. USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755 is available online at: <http://www.ocio.usda.gov/forms/doc/AD-755.pdf>.

Nominations including a cover letter to the Secretary, and the nominee's typed resume or curriculum vitae and a completed USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755 must be received by April 23, 2012. Self nominations are welcome.

Nomination packages can be mailed to: Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Attn: National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods.

For further information, contact Karen Thomas-Sharp, Advisory Committee Specialist,

at 202-690-6620 or [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov). To read the *Federal Register* notice, go to <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2012-0010.htm>.

## **Export Requirement Updates**

The Library of Export Requirements has been updated to reflect changes in export requirements for the following countries:

**Canada**

**Cuba**

**Hong Kong**

**Japan**

Complete information can be found at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations & Policies/Export Information/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations%20&%20Policies/Export%20Information/index.asp).

## **National Advisory Committee Discusses Proposed Rule on the Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection**

FSIS hosted a Web conference meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) on March 20 to solicit comments and hear discussion on the “Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection Proposed Rule” that was published in the *Federal Register* on January 27. Eleven committee members participated in the meeting.

FSIS presented an overview of the proposed rule and then opened the meeting up to discussion. The comments and input from committee members will help inform the agency’s decision making on the final rule.

Public comments on the meeting can be e-mailed to [NACMPI@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:NACMPI@fsis.usda.gov) or mailed to NACMPI, USDA, FSIS, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1180, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250. All submissions must include the agency name and docket number FSIS-2012-0016.

Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or by mail to: USDA, FSIS, OPPD, RIMD, Docket Clearance Unit, Patriots Plaza III, Room 8-164, 355 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024.

## **New Podcasts**



Tune in to podcasts on selecting, handling and preparing meat and poultry products to reduce the risk of foodborne illness. FSIS released these podcasts helpful to consumers.

### **Food Safety Discovery Zone**

**(English and Spanish)**

### **Safe Food Handling of Leftovers**

**(Spanish)**

Check out these podcast at [www.fsis.usda.gov/news\\_&\\_events/Podcasts/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&_events/Podcasts/index.asp). Spanish language consumer podcasts are available at [www.fsis.usda.gov/En\\_Espanol/Podcasts\\_SP/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En_Espanol/Podcasts_SP/index.asp). Video-casts in American Sign Language are available at [www.fsis.usda.gov/news\\_&\\_events/SignFSIS/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&_events/SignFSIS/index.asp).

### **Updates on FSIS Testing for *E. coli***

Weekly updates for the agency's raw beef *E. coli* sampling program are posted to the FSIS website.

For comparative previous and current year results, go to [www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Ground\\_Beef\\_E.coli\\_Testing\\_Results/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Ground_Beef_E.coli_Testing_Results/index.asp).

### **FSIS Policy Updates**

FSIS issues notices and directives to protect public health. The following policy updates were recently issued:

**Notice 21-12**, *Randomly Selecting Beef Trim to Be Collected Under the Beef Manufacturing Trimmings (Mt50) Sampling Program*

**Notice 22-12**, *Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program*

**Notice 24-12**, *Importation of Live Cattle from Mexico into the United States for Immediate Slaughter*

**Notice 25-12**, *Pasteurized Egg Products Imported in Bulk Containers from Canada*

All notices and directives are available at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp).

### **Codex Public Meeting on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food**

FSIS and the FDA are sponsoring a public meeting to receive public comments and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 20th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF), which will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The public meeting will be held on April 23 from 1 to 4 p.m. ET in the Jamie L. Whitten Bldg., USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm. 107-A, Washington, D.C. 20250. Documents and agenda items related to the 20th Session of the CCRVDF will be accessible on the Codex website at [www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org).

The following items will be discussed during the public meeting:

Draft Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) for Veterinary Drugs;

Revision of the Committee's Risk Analysis Principles;

Proposed amendments to the Committee's terms of reference; and

Risk management recommendations for the veterinary drugs for which no MRL has been recommended by the expert scientific committee because of human health concerns.

For more information or to submit written comments about the 20th Session of the CCRVDF, contact Kevin Greenlees at (240) 276-8214 or [kevin.greenlees@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:kevin.greenlees@fda.hhs.gov).

For more information about the public meeting, contact Kenneth Lowery at (202) 690-4042 or [kenneth.lowery@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:kenneth.lowery@fsis.usda.gov).

## **Visit USDA's Blog**

Every day, the USDA Blog shares something new about USDA's expansive mission. The blog provides a rich and diverse look at the work within the department, spanning the nation—and even the world—and highlights the breadth of USDA programs and the role they play in the lives of every American.

Go to <http://blogs.usda.gov/> and see what's happening within the agency and across the department. Check out Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Elisabeth Hagen's blog "Setting the Record Straight on Beef" at <http://blogs.usda.gov/2012/03/22/setting-the-record-straight-on-beef/>.

## **Follow Us on Twitter**

Find food safety information for at-risk people along with tips and resources to keep consumers and other interested groups informed of the latest agency news and events. Follow FSIS on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.twitter.com/USDAFoodSafety).

You can also receive alerts about recalls in your state and how to keep food safe

during severe weather in your area by follow FSIS' state Twitter feeds. A list of all FSIS state food safety alert Twitter feeds is available at

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fsis\\_Recalls/Open\\_Federal\\_Cases/index.asp#Twitter](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fsis_Recalls/Open_Federal_Cases/index.asp#Twitter).

### **Also Tweet En Español**

The FSIS Spanish language Twitter feed keeps consumers and other interested communities informed of the latest agency news and events and provides useful food safety tips.

Follow FSIS' Spanish Twitter account at [www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafes](http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafes).

**From:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Constituent Update - March 23, 2012  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 4:16:57 PM

---

I hear you! Sure, glad to make the change.

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 4:16 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Constituent Update - March 23, 2012

Yes, but since the press release went out on March 14, we had the canceled FNS call (slated for 3.21) that was cancelled because it went to a listserv and we had the NYTimes and a bunch of school districts signing up for it. Just trying to help keep us out of the doghouse. No big deal, just a mention. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: contact information  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:58:27 PM

---

I don't have a clue what he's talking about.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:41 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: contact information

"Pink slime"? did I miss something?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: contact information

I emailed Washington this morning requesting a response from them. Below is the response I received. See you at the meeting.

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: contact information

Thank you, sir! And, thanks for trumpeting out in the field the good work the agency and its employees are accomplishing! I hope to have some more information soon. Unfortunately, a lot of our efforts are focused on the "pink slime" issue de jour for today, but I'm hopeful this won't last past today so we can focus on other things...

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: contact information

Good Morning Dirk,

I was wondering if you have an update for me regarding the TV show "The Morning Blend" request for someone from USDA to appear on their talk show to discuss food safety? We're rapidly running out of time as to when they were wanting someone from USDA to appear on their show (Monday, 3/26/2012). If possible, I'd appreciate a response from your office by tomorrow, Friday, 3/16/2012. Out of respect for their talk show, I need to be letting the Executive Producer of the talk show know if USDA is going to be able to appear on their show or no so if needed, they can schedule something different on the day they were wanting USDA to appear. Also, if you think this is something that USDA can do at a later date, let me know this so that I can ask the Executive Producer if she is able to reschedule the date for USDA to appear on their show. I want to thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Hope you have a pleasant day.

(b) (6)

*USDA-FSIS Consumer Safety Inspector*

*3000 Kennedy Ave.*

*Beloit, WI 53511*

*Phone #:* (b) (6)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** contact information

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: contact information  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 12:44:00 PM

---

Hello Dirk,

Hopefully you've been able to resolve all media issues pertaining to "pink slime". I'm sure you are busy addressing media issues a lot more important than the request from NBC TMJ4 TV station for USDA to appear on their talk show to discuss Food Safety, but I would really appreciate some kind of response from your office today that I'm able to share with the TV station regarding their request. If your office needs more time to review their request, let me know and I can contact the Executive Producer and maybe she can reschedule the date for USDA to appear on their talk show. Also, I was wondering if you've had a chance to read the email I sent you from Mike Craig, Wal-Mart, Food Safety and Health, regarding the press release Wal-Mart released in November 2011 about Wal-Mart teaming up with USDA to share food safety information with their consumers by playing food safety information on the overhead monitors at checkout lines in approximately 600 retail stores nationwide? It was stated in the press release that the Food Safety information played on the overhead monitors had the potential of reaching approximately 50 million consumers. WOW! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (b) (6). Hope you're having a pleasant day.

(b) (6)

*USDA-FSIS Consumer Safety Inspector*

*3000 Kennedy Ave.*

*Beloit, WI 53511*

*Phone #:* (b) (6)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Contents from ECM Folder No. 7196205 - Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:41:44 AM

---

You're response has been added to the folder and the workflow has been forwarded.

(b) (6)  
Management Assistant  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD  
Risk, Innovations, and Management Division (RIMD)  
Patriots Plaza 3  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mailstop 3782  
Room 8-163B  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
(W) (b) (6)  
(F) 202-245-4793  
Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:47 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Contents from ECM Folder No. 7196205 - Pink Slime

This response is not responsive to the issue about previously frozen product. The response regarding LFTB is correct.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (b) (6) -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:39 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Contents from ECM Folder No. 7196205 - Pink Slime  
**Importance:** High

You can give me your concurrence, via email, and I will add it to the folder and close-out the workflow on behalf of OPPD.

(b) (6)

Management Assistant  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD  
Risk, Innovations, and Management Division (RIMD)  
Patriots Plaza 3  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Mailstop 3782  
Room 8-163B  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
(W) (b) (6)  
(F) 202-245-4793  
Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Control #7182438 (Zazzaro - Pink Slime)  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:01:39 AM

---

Welcome.

---

**From:** Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:00 AM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Control #7182438 (Zazzaro - Pink Slime)

Thank you.

Nichele Derrickson,  
*Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175 - South Building

Phone: (202) 720-9113  
Fax: (202) 720-5704

[nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:56 AM  
**To:** Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Control #7182438 (Zazzaro - Pink Slime)

Cleared without edits.

---

**From:** Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:39 AM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Control #7182438 (Zazzaro - Pink Slime)  
**Importance:** High

Linda: Please clear and review the attached document. Must be completed in the ECM folder.

**Note: Please expedite, task due today, 3/12/12.**

Incoming:

<< File: 00001195.pdf >>

Draft Response:

<< File: Nancy Zazzaro-Pink Slime[1].docx >>

Thanks.

Nichele Derrickson,  
*Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175 - South Building

Phone: (202) 720-9113

Fax: (202) 720-5704

[nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Control #7182438 (Zazzaro - Pink Slime)  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:07:02 PM

---

Thanks Carol.

(b) (6)

*Food Safety & Inspection Service*

*Congressional & Public Affairs Office*

*Room 1175 South Building*

*Phone:* (b) (6)

*Fax:* (202) 720-5704

(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:58 PM  
**To:** Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Control #7182438 (Zazzaro - Pink Slime)

I clear with edits in the attached. Thanks!

<< File: Nancy Zazzaro-Pink Slime1.docx >>

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Control #7182438 (Zazzaro - Pink Slime)  
**Importance:** High

Carol: Please clear and review the attached document for OPACE clearance. Must be completed in the ECM folder.

**Note: Please expedite, task due today, 3/12/12.**

L.West clears for CPAO with no edits.

Incoming:

<< File: 00001195.pdf >>

Draft Response:

<< File: Nancy Zazzaro-Pink Slime[1].docx >>

Thanks.

Nichele Derrickson,  
*Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175 - South Building

Phone: (202) 720-9113

Fax: (202) 720-5704

[nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Control number 7183817  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:06:27 PM

---

Not yet. I am going to send ECM#7190678 forward to him for signature with a note and see if I can get a response.

(b) (6)

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

(Desk) (b) (6)

(Fax) 202-720-7609

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

*TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION.*

*BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE*

*DR. MARTIN L. KING*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Control number 7183817

Excellent – did we get (b) (6) ok to autopen?

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:03 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Control number 7183817

These pink slime letters have been revised and should be in your in-box.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250

Phone (b) (6)



**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Control number 7196205 -- Al Sheldon e-mail  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 12:29:27 PM

---

(b) (6),

I think this may work. Let me know what you think.

Jeff

FSIS regulations require packaged meat products that need special handling (e.g., refrigeration) to maintain their quality to bear a handling statement on the principal display panel. The handling statement for ground beef can be identified as "keep refrigerated" even if some of the meat used in its formulation, including finely textured beef, has been previously frozen.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:59 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** Control number 7196205 -- Al Sheldon e-mail

<< File: RE Message from Internet User - Pink Slime heat.txt >>

Not responsive to issue about previously frozen product. << File: asheldon-pink slime and frozen[1][1][2].docx >>

Thank you

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250

Phone (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) @aol.com  
**Subject:** RE: Delegate Training Scenarios  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 5:21:55 PM

---

Thanks for the quick reply, (b) (6). In speaking with (b) (6) and the team about this, we decided to offer more time to this portion of the program and have it cross over the two days. In other words, we will conclude Thursday (2:30PM-4:30PM) with the first half of the session and open Friday (8:30AM-10AM) with the second half. Given the sequence and substance you all had in mind, would that work?

Also, (b) (6) indicated that you should feel free to pick and choose among the scenarios and not feel obligated to cover all of them, particularly if it would be more beneficial to focus on less vs. more.

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6) @gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:41 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) @aol.com  
**Subject:** Re: Delegate Training Scenarios

Thanks very much, (b) (6). Our experience in discussing these scenarios among ourselves is that it is VERY easy to discuss them at length, and in fact, we have collectively worried that, given the number of scenarios we have now, and the time we've been allotted, we'd have only 10 minutes per scenario, which would mean rigorously tight time management. On the other hand, doing this one thing for more than two hours without a break might get tedious.

One approach might be to allow 15 min per scenario, and allow 3.5 hrs for this section, but give a break in the middle. What do you all think?

I don't think we could add more scenarios without having this section eat up a huge amount of time. Plus, we three think that this list is very good, and we couldn't think of any obvious issue that is not covered by them.

Reactions?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS" <(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>  
**Date:** Mon, 26 Mar 2012 17:18:33 +0000  
**To:** "(b) (6)"  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: Delegate Training Scenarios

Thanks very much, (b) (6) and (b) (6). Since we are still tweaking the agenda, we can add additional time to this segment if needed. In light of the scenarios and how you plan to cover them, would this segment benefit from additional time?

Also, just as an FYI, we recently learned that the conference facility closes at 430PM, so the agenda will need to be modified to reflect this fact.

---

**From:** L. Robert, Penny B. Lake [mailto:(b) (6)]@att.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 25, 2012 1:28 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)@aol.com  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Delegate Training Scenarios

(b) (6)

I believe I have found the note was sent from (b) (6) to (b) (6) about the scenarios. It is as follows:

"Dear (b) (6)

(b) (6) and (b) (6) and I have had extensive discussion of the 10 scenarios that you sent to us. We think that they are all excellent, and that each illustrates a different problem or issue.

As we contemplate how to organize the group's discussion in the most effective way, we need to know whether, as you suggested at one time, there might be more scenarios coming to us that you'd like considered also, or whether we should expect that the workshop participants will be intending to suggest their own.

Our proposal for the 10 we currently have is this:

We will introduce the discussion by saying that several general observations came to us as we considered the situations illustrated by these scenarios, and these general observations are generally applicable to all situations in Codex and should always be adhered to:

1. Prepare and Share — Early and Often.
2. Know your Resources and Make Use of Them....especially in tricky, complex situations.

We would then each take a scenario, start by illustrating briefly a situation that the person discussing that scenario has personally faced, and then discuss the points raised by the scenario, possible solutions, and then moderate a discussion with the participants.

If we work with these 10 only, we will be able to devote only 12 minutes to discussion of each, assuming that our time slot remains as it is given in the latest agenda (3PM to 5PM).

We propose to take them in the following order:

Old 9 becomes 1 (b) (6) "What happens when FAO or WHO representative intervenes...."  
Old 2 remains 2 (b) (6)  
Old 3 remains 3 (b) (6)  
Old 1 becomes 4 (b) (6)  
Old 4 becomes 5 (b) (6)  
Old 5 becomes 6 (b) (6)  
Old 6 becomes 7 (b) (6)  
Old 7 becomes 8 (b) (6)

Old 10 becomes 9. (b) (6)

Old 8 becomes (b) (6)

Please let us know if this meets with your approval, or whether you have any "pink slime" to throw at us. (Heh, heh....a little USDA humor for your afternoon.....)

We are looking forward to the workshop.

Best regards,

(b) (6) (and (b) (6) and (b) (6)

I hope this information is helpful. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Have a good week,

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: discuss "pink slime" calls  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:04:17 AM

---

I think so:

I'm at home too, I will dial , access:

I will dial in as the 'host'

Hope you can make it – you had very interesting comments earlier,

If you cannot attend I will certainly bring them up

Thanks (b) (6)

Hope you can join in

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: discuss "pink slime" calls  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:28:29 AM

---

Thanks for joining in (b) (6)

Have a good weekend

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:54 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** Tentative: discuss 'pink slime' calls

**When:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:30 AM-9:00 AM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** conference call & HL area

(b) (6) can I call in to this? Regular number?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Weaver, Fatima - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: District of Columbia Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:48:27 PM

---

Can you follow up on this for me? Requests are due by cob today. Maybe ECIMS could have someone to do mail pick ups, etc. I know Brian is swamped on pink slime stuff...

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:47 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Leach, Alicemary - FSIS; Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; Weaver, Fatima - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: District of Columbia Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

Following up on this – has anyone put forward a request? I would like OPACE to have at least one DC summer youth participant.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Document1  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:47:35 AM

---

Also add Kroger and Food Lion if they are ground in the store.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:44 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Document1

<< File: Doc1.docx >>

Everyone has been worried about the Pink Slime. Here is an article letting you know what groceries do not use it if you are concerned. Looks like all the ones except Costco use it.



**From:** [Khan, Atiya - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Does the briefing book have talkers on "pink slime"?  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 11:44:19 AM

---

We have a paper on ammoniated beef.

Atiya Khan, Legislative Analyst

U.S. Department of Agriculture-FSIS

202-205-3826 (office)

202-510-5710 (cell)

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 11:39 AM  
**To:** Khan, Atiya - FSIS  
**Subject:** Does the briefing book have talkers on "pink slime"?

Christopher Gould

Congressional & Public Affairs Office

USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service

202-690-4546 (desk)

202-365-0186 (cell)

202-720-5704 (fax)

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Don't be a hater  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:44:38 AM

---

You are funny (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 6:18 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Don't be a hater

Well not that I have ever eaten one but I hear McDonald's has salads....I am not really sure why they have them. I think the last one they sold was back in 1998 and even then they had to blow the dust off of it.

(b) (6)  
Consumer Safety Inspector  
Chicago District Office  
Circuit 50-23  
(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:16 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Don't be a hater

Oh that's healthy (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 6:14 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Don't be a hater

Prices are high but look on the bright side, we aren't standing in line for bread or cheese and there is still a McDonald's on every corner.

(b) (6)  
Consumer Safety Inspector  
Chicago District Office  
Circuit 50-23  
(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Smith, Ladene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Don't be a hater

I think it's already there (b) (6) got to grow and raise our own food, besides food prices are so high I might be eating wild game, just call me Annie Oakley.

PS: went food shopping over the weekend and wanted to get a pot roast, for the price I should have

gotten a Prime Rib.....

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS

Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 1:46 PM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)

FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: RE: Don't be a hater

It is sure tempting to go Vegan. I think I may do that in a couple of years when the food supply becomes too corrupted.

(b) (6)

Relief Consumer Safety Inspector

USDA, FSIS, OFO

Columbus, IN.

CELL: (b) (6)

EMAIL: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

"Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle"

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: (b) (6) working @home  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 8:02:24 AM

---

Thanks. I've been going through my 284 emails and I saw the McDonalds item but haven't read it yet.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 8:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: (b) (6) working @home

Okay works for me. See you Wednesday AM.

Just an FYI, some things trending on the hotline: pink slime, McDonalds announced they will no longer be using this process for hamburgers (didn't mention chicken nuggets) (b) (6) has entered it into the hotline screen under additives because of the ammonia involved in the process.

Not much else new.

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854  
or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 7:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: (b) (6) working @home

It was mostly catching up on sleep and relaxing – no new sights for me. But (b) (6) added his 100<sup>th</sup> country – Jamaica. I had already been there several times.

I hear you had great weather here. Hope it continues.

I'm in the office with you next week on Wednesday and Friday. I'll drive on Wednesday to give you a break, if you like.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 7:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: (b) (6) working @home

Welcome back, hope you had a good trip!

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854  
or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 7:43 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** (b) (6) working @home

Good morning, everyone! We just landed from Miami last night, rested and relaxed. I'm ready to work, so I will first start reading my 284 email messages. Talk to you any time

(b) (6).

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 6:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Working @home

Good Morning!

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: (b) (6) working @home  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 10:41:29 AM

---

Interesting. I hope you like the sessions. I think they'll all good. Pati Jinich is a jewel. You'll like her hands-on class. She's on PBS-Tv channel 26 on Saturday mornings.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 8:53 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: (b) (6) working @home

Session 1: I had trouble deciding between *Trucs of the Trade* and *How Restaurants Evolve and Change with the Times*. I chose *Trucs of the Trade* since I figured that would be more relevant for me in the home kitchen.

Session 2: *When Does the Cumin Go In? Food Writing with Recipes*. I chose this since Sara Moulton will be a part of the discussion.

Session 3: Mexican cooking demonstration

Session 4: *Fish, Fowl and Fruit. Where in the World is My Food Coming From*. I chose this because (b) (6) is the chair and I think the topic is very timely and I would like to hear comments or questions from the audience and how they feel about our global food market.

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 8:41 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: (b) (6) working @home

I'm interested in hearing which sessions you found interesting.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 8:40 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: (b) (6) working @home

Thank you! I love those croissants. I was at Wegman's a week ago and bought three of them. Needless to say two didn't make it home. I had to vacuum my car so (b) (6) wouldn't see the evidence I left behind, chocolate and crumbs all over my seat and me.

I am looking forward to the symposium and have already made my selections.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 8:33 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: (b) (6) working @home

Good morning, (b) (6) I thought of you on the ship when they had *pain au chocolat* (chocolate croissants). Hope you can come to Les Dames' symposium. I made sure L'Academie's pastry students were going to make them for the breakfast.

Regarding the pink slime, I don't think anyone would have thought to use such stuff in "the old days." Now it's all about making money from selling the unknowing public hog slop!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 8:29 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: (b) (6) working @home

Hi (b) (6)

Welcome back!

A cruise this time of year sounds nice right now. I'm glad you got some rest and relaxation we all need a break from the "rat race" here.

Not much happening except we have been getting some call about "pink slime" again due to a story about McDonalds. Most people want to know if it's true that USDA allows this.

When I tell them yes, they start venting and I just listen.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 7:43 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** (b) (6) working @home

Good morning, everyone! We just landed from Miami last night, rested and relaxed. I'm ready to work, so I will first start reading my 284 email messages. Talk to you any time (b) (6).

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 6:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Working @home

Good Morning!

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854  
or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Cisco phone help: never mind  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:56:23 PM

---

ok, glad that helped and I'm knocking on wood too (b) (6)

Thank you

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:54 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Cisco phone help: never mind

Okay, that makes sense. No pink slime so far...knock on wood.

FYI: I'm logging out at 4:00 pm today. I just did my timesheet and realized today should have been my short day (8). I should have logged in at 7:30 instead of 7:00. Oh well.

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2L-248D

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Cisco phone help: never mind

It is weird indeed:

Sometimes it appears to have on queue what you saw the last time

And then when redoing it gives you the latest queue..

Not sure why it does it,,I've noticed before

I've been keeping an eye today also on the queue, since I'm trying to get these Lego –quite a few—project reviews out of the way.

It seems (b) (6) as well as (b) (6) are in the review process – I see their names on the Lego page (logged in)

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:47 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Cisco phone help: never mind

I don't know what's happening. I logged out and then back in. Everything seems like it's working.

I will keep an eye on the queue and let you know if I need your help.

(b) (6) **RD RN**

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2L-248D

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: clarification -- and questions  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:52:07 PM

---

Great – I can take a quick look at your revisions before it moves forward.

Review the pink slime e-mails, and if they are all very similar and will receive near-identical responses, add them as documents in one folder. Use one as the lead response, and then we can add the text to the others when that one is cleared and signed.

The poultry e-mail should be separate, as it is different than the others I forwarded you.

I haven't heard back from OA on 7160292. I can try again.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** clarification -- and questions

I have found the kumar file and have printed off the new letter both on letterhead and on yellow pages. Would you like to review the letter for me and we can try again to get it signed? -- thanks.

Just to be sure –you said that I should insert all of the meat pink slime together in under the same control number. Right?

And the poultry pink slime should be inserted by itself. Right?

And have you heard if OA contacted the employee that I have as fi37 – control number

7160292.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW, Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250

Phone (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance - Ronk  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:47:24 AM

---

Perfect. Thanks.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW. • Room 1166 • Washington D.C. 20250  
(b) (6) (W) • (202) 720-7609 (F) • (b) (6) (C)  
e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe. **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Clearance - Ronk

Hey (b) (6)

I'd like to use the original pink slime language (see attached). I'm updating and moving forward. Thanks.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

<< File: Ronk - Ammoniated beef[1][1].doc >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Closure letter for PS 2434 0294 (ICAD 12 0040) Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:59:30 AM  
**Attachments:** [OIG Closure \(Pink Slime\).doc](#)

---

[Use this version](#)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Closure letter for PS 2434 0294 (ICAD 12 0040) Pink Slime

(b) (6)

Please see attached closure letter and advise of necessary changes, thanks!

<< File: Closure to OIG to NR (3).doc >>

(b) (6)

Management Analyst

USDA/FSIS/OPEER/ICAD

500 Poydras Street, Suite 1109

New Orleans, LA 70130

Office: (b) (6)

Fax: (504) 589-2916

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Weaver, Fatima - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: CNN Story Just Ran on Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 1:40:40 PM

---

Thanks!! I'm in the NACMPI meeting in 327E but please go ahead.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Cell: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Weaver, Fatima - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 12:34 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: CNN Story Just Ran on Pink Slime

(b) (6) and I are on the way to your office to see what's going on with the current TV, until a new one is purchased and received.

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:54 AM  
**To:** Weaver, Fatima - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: CNN Story Just Ran on Pink Slime

I really need to get a working TV in my office... ☺

**Carol Blake**  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basis/index.html>



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:52 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** CNN Story Just Ran on Pink Slime

Focus was that Publix, Safeway, and Whole Foods are saying they won't sell the stuff. The host talked about how grossed out she was, but the reporter, Elizabeth Cohen, noted that there's nothing unsafe about it, and in fact the ammonium hydroxide was for the purposes of controlling E.Coli.

Christopher Gould

Congressional & Public Affairs Office

USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service

202-690-4546 (desk)

202-365-0186 (cell)

202-720-5704 (fax)

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often   **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature   **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Rowe, Courtney - OC](#); [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**Cc:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comment for msnbc.com story  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:51:32 PM

---

[Here are both parts](#)

Hi, Michael, We are looking into reports that 7 million pounds of waste beef commonly called “pink slime” is distributed for school lunches by the USDA. An online petition has been started, urging the National School Lunch Program to stop the use of ground beef containing pink slime, and has almost 20,000 signatures. Would the agency consider revoking the authorization of treating meats with the ammonia-based chemical? Any guidance is much appreciated.

---

**From:** Jane Weaver (MSNBC-JV) [mailto:[Jane.Weaver@msnbc.com](mailto:Jane.Weaver@msnbc.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 02:30 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** Comment for msnbc.com story

Hi, Neil, We are looking into reports that 70 percent of the ground beef sold in U.S. supermarkets contains what is known as “lean finely textured beef” or pink slime. Many of our readers – and a lot of people online as well – seem to be in a panic about the safety of these meat products. Can you give me a comment about the safety of this meat and whether the agency would ever consider changing the authorization of the use of lean finely textured beef. Any help is much appreciated. We’re working on an update of the story this afternoon.

Best,  
Jane

Jane Weaver | deputy health editor | 212-413-6708

 **msnbc** digital network |  **TODAY.com**

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#); [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Rowe, Courtney - OC](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comment for msnbc.com story  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:50:26 PM

---

She is coming at us from all angles – looping everyone in.

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:49 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** Fw: Comment for msnbc.com story

FYI.

---

**From:** Jane Weaver (MSNBC-JV) [<mailto:Jane.Weaver@msnbc.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 02:30 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** Comment for msnbc.com story

Hi, Neil, We are looking into reports that 70 percent of the ground beef sold in U.S. supermarkets contains what is known as “lean finely textured beef” or pink slime. Many of our readers – and a lot of people online as well – seem to be in a panic about the safety of these meat products. Can you give me a comment about the safety of this meat and whether the agency would ever consider changing the authorization of the use of lean finely textured beef. Any help is much appreciated. We’re working on an update of the story this afternoon.

Best,  
Jane

Jane Weaver | deputy health editor | 212-413-6708

 **msnbc** digital network |  **TODAY.com**

**From:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comment for msnbc.com story  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:03:45 PM

---

I can send it

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:03 PM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: Comment for msnbc.com story

Mike – did you already send this to her? You want to do it, or do you want me to – doesn't matter to me since I'll just buck it to Neil or Dirk on Monday. If you want me to cover you, give me the word.

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:02 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Comment for msnbc.com story

Jane:

Below is statement on record as well as some background info.

**On the record:**

"All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce - and especially into schools - that we have confidence are safe."

**ON BACKGROUND:**

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP), administered by the USDA, purchases approximately 20 percent of the products served in schools across the country. In other words, the majority,

approximately 80 percent, is purchased by schools or school districts directly through private vendors and not USDA. In its role as the purchasing agent, to quantify how much of a particular product purchased by USDA is served in specific school districts or specific schools is difficult to measure and depends upon a case by case or even school-by-school basis. Procurement officials for schools may have this information.

Since the early 1990s, Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) has been allowed as a component of the ground beef purchased by USDA for distribution through the NSLP. The maximum allowable percentage of LFTB that may be formulated into single servings of the ground beef purchased for the NSLP is 15 percent, which is similar to the composition found in many commercially available ground beef products. USDA does not purchase LFTB directly.

All USDA beef purchases for the NSLP and other Federal food and nutrition assistance programs meet very high food safety standards, which include stringent pathogen testing. Beef supplied by BPI as a component of the beef products purchased by USDA for the NSLP is subject to the same strict pathogen testing requirements for beef raw ingredients.

---

**From:** Jane Weaver (MSNBC-JV) [<mailto:Jane.Weaver@msnbc.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:23 PM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** Comment for msnbc.com story

Hi, Michael, We are looking into reports that 7 million pounds of waste beef commonly called “pink slime” is distributed for school lunches by the USDA. An online petition has been started, urging the National School Lunch Program to stop the use of ground beef containing pink slime, and has almost 20,000 signatures. Would the agency consider revoking the authorization of treating meats with the ammonia-based chemical? Any guidance is much appreciated.

Best,  
Jane

Jane Weaver | deputy health editor | 212-413-6708

 msnbc digital network | 

**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Complainant alleges he didn't receive a letter  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:17:44 PM

---

Thanks a bunch, (b) (6) We'll look into the case.

Have a great day!

(b) (6) **M.P.H., M.S.**

**USDA/FSIS/OPHS/AED**

**Lieutenant, USPHS**

**Surveillance Epidemiologist**

**1400 Independence Ave., SW**

**Stop 3766, PP3, Room 9-233A**

**work:** (b) (6)

**fax: 202-690-6364**

**email:** (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

" THIS IS THE DAY WHICH THE LORD HAS MADE; WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT." PSALM 118:24

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This email and any attachments may contain information that is protected, privileged or confidential in nature and may be protected by legal privilege. It is intended for the exclusive use of the intended recipient (s) named above, if you are not the intended recipient (s), be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this email or any attachment is strictly prohibited. **If you think you have received this e-mail message in error, please e-mail the sender immediately at:** (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Complainant alleges he didn't receive a letter

This person says he never got a letter but said a young woman investigator called him on the phone and said to throw away the evidence. He has been reading about "pink slime" and now thinks that's what made his family sick.

Can you check on his case? (He doesn't know the case number).

(b) (6)

191 Broadway, Apt. 6E

New York, NY 10533

(b) (6)@verizon.net

(b) (6)

**Food Safety Specialist**

**USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline**

**Room 2L254-B**

**5601 Sunnyside Ave.**

**Beltsville, MD 20705-5000**

(b) (6)

**Fax (301) 504-2092**

**1 (888) MPHotline or 1 (888) 674-6854**

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](https://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Rowe, Courtney - OC](#); [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - [QSEC](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:42:22 AM

---

FYI - Brian

AMI Press Release: Lean Finely Textured Beef Is A Safe and Wholesome Beef Product

Lean Finely Textured Beef Is A Safe and Wholesome Beef Product  
03/08/2012  
American Meat Institute

Attribute Statement to American Meat President J. Patrick Boyle ...THIS STORY CONTINUES...

[http://www.meatami.com/ht/d/ReleaseDetails/i/76164/mo\\_person\\_id/00077798/mo\\_mailing\\_id/M0-02386](http://www.meatami.com/ht/d/ReleaseDetails/i/76164/mo_person_id/00077798/mo_mailing_id/M0-02386)

## Lean Finely Textured Beef Is A Safe and Wholesome Beef Product

Thursday, March 8, 2012

***(Attribute Statement to American Meat President J. Patrick Boyle)***

Washington, DC -- "Lean finely textured beef (LFTB) is a safe, wholesome and nutritious form of beef that is made by separating lean beef from fat. To make LFTB, beef companies use beef trimmings, the small cuts of beef that remain when larger cuts are trimmed down. These trimmings are USDA inspected, wholesome cuts of beef that contain both fat and lean and are nearly impossible to separate using a knife. When these trimmings are processed, the process separates the fat away and the end result is nutritious, lean beef. It's a process similar to separating cream from milk.

One process uses food grade ammonium hydroxide gas, something commonly used in the production of many foods, to destroy bacteria. Another process uses citric acid (like acid in a citrus fruit) to destroy bacteria. Whatever process is used, it is all done under the watchful eye of USDA inspectors and according to strict federal rules. Lean finely textured beef is blended into foods like ground beef. Producing LFTB ensures that lean, nutritious, safe beef is not wasted in a world where red meat protein supplies are decreasing while global demand is increasing as population and income increases.

Some recent media reports created a troubling and inaccurate picture, particularly in their use of the colloquial term 'pink slime.' The fact is, LFTB is beef. The beef trimmings that are used to make LFTB are absolutely edible. In fact, no process can somehow make an inedible meat edible; it's impossible. In reality, the LFTB production process simply removes fat and makes the remaining beef more lean and suited to a variety of beef products that satisfy consumers' desire for leaner foods.

In fact, lean finely textured beef is a sustainable product because it recovers lean meat that would otherwise be wasted. The beef industry is proud to produce beef products that maximize as much lean meat as possible from the cattle we raise. It's the right thing to do and it ensures that our products remain as affordable as we can make them while helping to feed America and the world."

Consumers with questions are encouraged to visit <http://www.meatmythcrushers.com/>. For information on the use of ammonium hydroxide in other foods, visit [http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions and Answers about Ammonium Hydroxide Use in Food Production](http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions+and+Answers+about+Ammonium+Hydroxide+Use+in+Food+Production).

***Note to media: A photograph that is being used in many stories is NOT lean fine textured beef. Its use is highly inaccurate in connection with stories about lean finely textured beef.***

**Brian K. Mabry**  
***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Rowe, Courtney - OC



**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS;  
**(b) (6)** - OSEC  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Looping **(b) (6)** here. I am booked solid until 2:30. But could do something after that.

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:14 AM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request

I know folks are at hearings and spread throughout right now, but FSIS Media thinks it would be worthwhile to have a conference call or quick huddle early this afternoon about where we think this story will go and how we want to respond.

Thanks for your consideration. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:09 AM  
**To:** Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request

yes

---

**From:** Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:07 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Does this work?

All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:05 AM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Okay well he has our background on food safety as a whole.  
Courtney can we take nsfp out of the quote? He is going to chop it up on his own otherwise.

---

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:00 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Not a grade issue. This is FSIS mark of inspection issue not grading.

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:42 AM  
**To:** Rowe, Courtney - OC; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Cc:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** Fw: FOX News: Pink Slime request

See below - fox is confusing the usda grade A - I have asked mike to reach out

Why cannot let this story taint the grading program.

---

**From:** Folbaum, Rick [\[mailto:Rick.Folbaum@FOXNEWS.COM\]](mailto:Rick.Folbaum@FOXNEWS.COM)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 09:38 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Thank you

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC [\[mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov\]](mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:37 AM  
**To:** Folbaum, Rick  
**Subject:** Re: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Rick

Off the record

The purchases we make are for the school program I am not sure what purchases you mean outside of that - I am in a meeting and will have a colleague contact you about the grading program you refer to. Give me just a few.

---

**From:** Folbaum, Rick [\[mailto:Rick.Folbaum@FOXNEWS.COM\]](mailto:Rick.Folbaum@FOXNEWS.COM)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 09:31 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Thanks Aaron. But my questions weren't specifically about the National School Lunch Program. I was asking about all USDA stamped beef products sold in supermarkets. Can you re-word the statement below so that I can use it? I don't want to have to chop it up, though I could use just the second half of the quote. Removing the schools part would help me.

As for the link, I'll check it out.

Thank you!

Rick

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC [\[mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov\]](mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:27 AM  
**To:** Folbaum, Rick  
**Subject:** Fw: FOX News: Pink Slime request

Rick,

On the record from USDA Spokesperson Aaron Lavallee:

???All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program must meet the highest standards for food safety.?? This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety

regulations. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce - and especially into schools - that we have confidence are safe.???

**OFF THE RECORD:**

For information about this particular product, please contact the company and here is a link to a public video of the CEO

This video quotes the CEO/Founder as saying 70%

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHQHPNoyO7c&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHQHPNoyO7c&feature=player_embedded)

??

??

---

**From:** Chan, Stephanie - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 09:20 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Cc:** Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Subject:** FOX News: Pink Slime request

Report in an Hr.

---

**From:** Folbaum, Rick [<mailto:Rick.Folbaum@FOXNEWS.COM>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:12 AM  
**To:** [STEPHANIE.CHAN@USDA.GOV](mailto:STEPHANIE.CHAN@USDA.GOV)  
**Subject:** Request from Rick Folbaum at Fox News Channel

Stephanie,

As per our phone conversation, I'd wish to request a response to the ABC News report on so called "pink slime" being found in "70 percent of the ground beef (found) at supermarkets." The report quotes two former USDA scientists, Gerald Zirnstein and Carl Custer, who say they warned against using these beef trimmings, but that their government bosses "overruled them."

Are these charges true? Were the scientists overruled? Are these ingredients safe for public consumption? What are these ingredients? And what is the USDA's position on beef manufacturers who use cheaper ingredients as a way of boosting their profits?

My live report is in an hour, and I apologize for asking for such a quick turnaround, but I was just assigned the story. If you have a written statement, I'd like to incorporate it in my live shot. Emailing me is the best way to reach me as I will only be at my desk for the next 30 minutes.

Thank you,  
Rick Folbaum  
212-301-3050

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Friday night  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 10:52:36 AM

---

ewwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww

(b) (6)

Loan Service Advisor-Peachtree City

(b) (6)



---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@rinnai.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 10:42 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Friday night

Hey we should worry about everything we eat really (kidding) I just read that Starbucks strawberry drinks have ground up beetles in it. Yum! I like my protein other ways ha!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 10:38 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Friday night

Ok I want all of you to go to yahoo.com and scroll down and find the Dude, It's beef article. Rick Perry and other governors and the Under Secretary are saying the pink slime is ok to eat. Hell she the U.S. wouldn't even stop to answer questions about it.

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@deltacommunitycu.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Friday night

(b) (6) was building a gun rack ☺

(b) (6)

Loan Service Advisor-Peachtree City

(b) (6)

**From:** [Kause, Janell - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Bcc:** [Kause, Janell - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Friend of Ken Farber  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 12:58:17 AM

---

(b) (6) – I understand that Ms. Halbrook has filled her student internship already. I will try others here at USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (on our policy side). Thanks.

**Janell Kause, Director**

**Risk Assessment Division, Office of Public Health Science, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA**  
Mail Stop 3777, PP3, Office 9-184B, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250  
P: 202-690-0286; F: 202-690-6337; BB: 202-257-4483

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---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6) @uvm.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:19 PM  
**To:** Kause, Janell - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Friend of Ken Farber

Great - thank you so much. I really appreciate all your help. I'll be in touch with Ms. Halbrook right away.

(b) (6)

On Mar 27, 2012, at 2:41 PM, Kause, Janell - FSIS wrote:

I sent your resume on to Brenda Halbrook. She is the Director at USDA's Food and Nutrition Service who works on issues related to the School Lunch Program. I think her group would be interested in someone with your back and working on children's health issues.

**Contact:**

Brenda Halbrook, M.S., R.D.  
Director, Food Safety Unit Food & Nutrition Service, USDA  
Alexandria, DC  
phone: 703-305-2608  
fax: 703-305-2420  
[brenda.halbrook@fns.usda.gov](mailto:brenda.halbrook@fns.usda.gov)

**Janell Kause, Director**

**Risk Assessment Division, Office of Public Health Science, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA**  
Mail Stop 3777, PP3, Office 9-184B, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250  
P: 202-690-0286; F: 202-690-6337; BB: 202-257-4483

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---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@uvm.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:12 PM  
**To:** Kause, Janell - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Friend of (b) (6)

Hi Janell,

Thanks so much for your note. All of your suggestions definitely sound related to what I am interested in and I would love to know more. I have attached my resume, and anyone that you might be able to put me in touch with would be fantastic.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

On Mar 23, 2012, at 10:53 AM, Janell Kause wrote:

Hello (b) (6) I am on travel outside the U.S., but would like to follow up when I return. Please send your CV to my government account (I don't check this one enough) - (b) (6) @[fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Places I think would be a good fit: EPA has a team that works on issues related to children's health and pesticide exposure (under the Food Quality Protection Act). I also think that with increased emphasis on children's diets and the school lunch program (e.g., concerns about "pink slime" in the School Lunch Program), there are opportunities at USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. Another place may be at the Department of Health and Human Service - I don't have specifics but think that they would have groups focused on children's health. Since I work for USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, I can direct you to some of my contacts that USDA Food and Nutrition Service (as well as FDA and EPA). Just let me know. Thanks.

On Mon, Mar 19, 2012 at 10:34 PM, (b) (6) <(b) (6)@uvm.edu> wrote:  
Hi Janelle

I got your contact from Ken Farber, and he suggested that I contact you directly to seek your advice. As I think he has mentioned to you, I am looking for an internship (paid or unpaid) for this summer. I was wondering if you might have any ideas and/or people I could get in touch with. I am interested in anything law-related, specifically children's law. Any advice or recommendations you have would be fantastic!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (6)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FRIENDLY REMINDER--CPAO Weekly Report  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 5:13:12 PM

---

- FSIS distributed a news release on Wednesday promoting food safety tips for Super Bowl parties.
- FSIS managed several media inquiries regarding the use of “pink slime” in ground beef, as well as in the National School Lunch Program. FSIS is highlighting the fact that we have determined that use of the product is safe for consumers, and that USDA only would allow food to be given to our schoolchildren that we are confident is safe.

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 5:06 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: FRIENDLY REMINDER--CPAO Weekly Report  
**Importance:** High

Hi Dirk,  
Just checking whether you have any updates you'd like to the report?

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety & Inspection Service  
Congressional & Public Affairs Office  
Room 1175 South Building  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 720-5704  
(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)*

---

**From:** Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:57 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; West, Walinda - FSIS; Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS; Khan, Atiya - FSIS; Tarrant, Alexandra - FSIS  
**Subject:** REMINDER--CPAO Weekly Report



**Importance:** High

Good morning all,

This is a reminder that Michele and I need your updates for the CPAO Weekly Report. Please provide it by COB today. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Thanks!

Nichele Derrickson,  
*Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175 - South Building  
Phone: (202) 720-9113  
Fax: (202) 720-5704  
[nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: From Carolyn O'Neil: THE DOCTORS Investigate: What's Really in Your Food!  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2012 4:30:16 PM

---

Good actors...

If it's bologna they're selling they better be sure it's USDA inspected and not door to door..  
TV doesn't need doors though, does it?.. they're IN there in our homes.. when we let them in.  
a.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2012 3:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** From Carolyn O'Neil: THE DOCTORS Investigate: What's Really in Your Food!

Our friend (b) (6) sent this email to us.

---

**From:** (b) (6)@aol.com [mailto:(b) (6)@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2012 3:01 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6)@uga.edu  
**Subject:** Fwd: THE DOCTORS Investigate: What's Really in Your Food!

Oh boy...here we go! Just wanted to give my colleagues involved in food safety science a heads up on this episode of The Doctors....in case you were not aware.  
Since when is Chef Rocco DiSpirito a food scientist?  
First Dr. Oz and arsenic in apple juice, now this.  
Please feel free to forward to colleagues.  
Carolyn

---

**From:** (b) (6)@MPRM.com  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** 2/24/2012 2:49:35 P.M. Eastern Standard Time  
**Subj:** THE DOCTORS Investigate: What's Really in Your Food!

Hi there,

It's been four years since *Food Inc.* lifted the veil on America's food industry and exposed how the nation's food suppliers put profit ahead of the health of the consumer. But Americans are still being served harmful foods including burgers made out of pink slime, chicken "marinated" in chlorine and injected with salt water with sodium content equivalent to a serving of fries, artificial flavoring in ice cream that is otherwise used in lice killer and carcinogens in bread commonly found on the kitchen table – all government sanctioned ingredients.

On Monday, February 27, the hosts of the Emmy Award-winning syndicated talk show THE DOCTORS, along with special guest and celebrity chef Rocco DiSpirito, take a closer look at American food staples and examines the harmful additives and processes used to prepare them. Please feel free to share these highlights with your viewers:

- **Burgers\*** – Would you eat a burger made out of “pink slime”—the name given to the mechanically separated meat that’s treated with ammonia hydroxide to kill bacteria like E-coli? McDonald’s, Taco Bell and Burger King, once purveyors of pink slime, say they have discontinued their use of this meat, made from discarded beef (i.e. everything else from the cow that had been deemed inedible), but who still does? Schools serve it up daily in kids’ lunches.
- **Chicken** –To disinfect and cool chicken post slaughter, chickens are often soaked in a chlorine bath with a water-to-chlorine ratio up to 50 times more potent than the local swimming pool. Then, to help hide the chlorine taste, the chickens are “plumped” with salt water, making the chickens larger in both weight and price. Plus, via a scientific experiment, THE DOCTORS determined that chlorine baths may not even rid chicken of the bacteria the chlorine bath is supposed to prevent.
- **Ice Cream** – One billion gallons of ice cream are consumed by Americans every year. The most popular flavor? Vanilla. Real vanilla beans are expensive, so to save money, many ice cream makers use a synthetic flavoring called piperonal which is also an ingredient in lice killer.
- **Bread** – Many breads are made with potassium bromate, which has been banned in Canada and the UK and has been named a carcinogen by the EPA, but has been approved by the FDA. Plus, azodicarbonamide, found in many manufactured donuts and hamburger buns - as well as plastics, rubber and foam - has been found to aggravate asthma symptoms and contribute respiratory problems in humans.

So, what does THE DOCTORS recommend to avoid these harmful foods?

- Read the fine print on labels!
  - Look for fewer ingredients with words you can pronounce
  - Avoid “artificial flavors” as much as possible
  - Avoid “artificial dyes”, especially Red 40, Blue 1, Yellow 5 & 6
- Limit processed foods.
- While it’s not economical for everyone to buy organic all the time, it’s worth spending a few extra dollars on organic poultry and beef.
  - To save money, purchase the whole chicken. Boneless, skinless chicken breasts are the most expensive by the pound.
  - Check the “sell by” dates, and plan to shop the day before when your butcher is likely to mark down the poultry and meat.
  - Consider buying direct from a farmer’s market
- Check the sodium levels on fresh and frozen chicken packaging.
  - A truly natural chicken breast has 50 to 75 mg. of sodium. If there’s more than that, the bird has been “plumped”.
- Cook for your family.
  - If you want to know what’s in your food, make it yourself.
  -

It's a great way to bond with your children and teach them about health.

Visit [www.thedoctorstv.com](http://www.thedoctorstv.com) for a cheat sheet that lists the harmful additives often hidden on food labels as well as a complete list of common additives to avoid. Also find a recipe for a delicious homemade, super low-calorie ice cream by Rocco DiSpirito.

Please feel free to use the photo below. Video clips are also available upon request.

Thanks,  
Traci

\*Below is a photo of a 12 year-old burger THE DOCTORS' Dr. Jim Sears uses in nutrition lectures. Not even mold has grown on the meat because of all the added chemicals in there!



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: From Carolyn O'Neil: THE DOCTORS Investigate: What's Really in Your Food!  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2012 3:33:17 PM

---

\$ensational\$m....dies hard, or doe\$ it ever? !!

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff  
Meat and Poultry Hotline  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Tel: (b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2012 3:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** From (b) (6): THE DOCTORS Investigate: What's Really in Your Food!

Our friend (b) (6) sent this email to us.

**From:** [STEPHANIE ARMOUR \(BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:\)](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: From Stephanie  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 5:00:49 PM

---

(b) (6)

----- Original Message -----

From: Dirk - FSIS Fillpot <Dirk.Fillpot@fsis.usda.gov>  
To: STEPHANIE ARMOUR (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)  
At: 3/08 16:57:27

What's your number? I can't find it. Thanks!

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

-----Original Message-----

From: STEPHANIE ARMOUR (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) [<mailto:sarmour@bloomberg.net>]  
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:29 PM  
To: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Subject: From Stephanie

Hey Dirk, I was just nagging you on the pink slime release.

----- Original Message -----

From: STEPHANIE ARMOUR (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)  
To: Dirk.Fillpot@fsis.usda.gov  
At: 3/08 13:01:43

Say, what can you tell me about pink slime? :)

-

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**From:** [Patti Waller](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FSIS FOIA 2010-00073  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 12:20:15 PM

---

Thank you, thank you! You are awesome.

A reporter is trying to track down records because of the whole "pink slime" issue. I didn't keep a copy of this letter so now I can tell him that he has what I have.

---

**Patti Waller, MS, Epidemiologist**

**MARLER CLARK**

**THE FOOD SAFETY LAW FIRM**

Direct Line: (206) 515-1927  
Email: (b) (6)@marlerclark.com  
Website: [www.marlerclark.com](http://www.marlerclark.com)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 8:40 AM  
**To:** Patti Waller  
**Subject:** RE: FSIS FOIA 2010-00073

Hi Patti:

Sorry I missed you when I called. As promised, I have attached our response to you re. FOIA 10-073.

Thanks again & have a good day.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Patti Waller [mailto:[pwaller@marlerclark.com](mailto:pwaller@marlerclark.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FSIS FOIA 2010-00073

Hi (b) (6)

Hope you don't live to regret the day I got your email address!  
So...what do you have as the status for this FOIA request I submitted in November 2009?

Patti

---

**Patti Waller, MS, Epidemiologist**

**MARLER CLARK**

**THE FOOD SAFETY LAW FIRM**

1301 Second Avenue, Suite 2800

Seattle, WA 98101-3808

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Main Line: (206) 346-1888  
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Main Facsimile: (206) 346-1898  
Email: **(b) (6)** [@marlerclark.com](mailto:(b) (6)@marlerclark.com)  
Website: [www.marlerclark.com](http://www.marlerclark.com)

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**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: FSMA Deliverables  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 8:01:06 AM

---

Yes I am in very warm Colorado Springs. I believe those are correct. I have a few as well but don't have my notes so can't definitively say what those are. Thanks for your help and those of others in fsis on the pink slime issue. We need to get this behind us.

---

**From:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 06:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** FW: FSMA Deliverables

I am pretty sure that you are on travel, but I wanted to follow up on this, just to set out what I think are my assignments going forward.

I said that I would identify people to work with FDA on section 104. I also said that I would contact (b) (6) on section 109. On section 110, (b) (6) of REE and (b) (6) of FSIS are already assigned. On 204, I said that I would confirm with David Goldman that (b) (6) is the right person. I also said that I would check with Terri Nintemann that she is right person on 206. Finally, on 305 I said that I would check whether (b) (6) is the right person.

So you have anything different or additional, please let me know. Thanks.

---

**From:** Difilippo, Michelle [mailto:(b) (6)@fda.hhs.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:44 PM  
**To:** Keeney, Robert - AMS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FSMA Deliverables

Mr. Keeney and Mr. Derfler,

Thank you for the meeting yesterday. I hope the discussion was a productive use of time.

As promised, I have attached the spreadsheet that we reviewed during the meeting and made a few minor tweaks based on yesterday's discussion. I will continue to make updates as needed.

Thank you again and please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Best,  
(b) (6)

(b) (6)  
Office of Foods  
(b) (6)

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FTB and askFSIS  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:24:46 PM

---

I think so. I think it could be of use within industry but may be an issue for consumers.

---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:22 PM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FTB and askFSIS

Maybe that's an option to present in your paper for Dan.

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:00 PM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FTB and askFSIS

Rachel,

Yes, I checked the inquiries and Cargill specifically mentioned its proposed use on retail packages. I am not sure, I think most consumers only know it by the coined name pink slime and what they have heard from the media about its use as a filler. We don't have a standard of identity in our regulations or policy book. I see your point, it may be problematic for consumers if they don't know what it is. Would it be something we could allow on non-retail product since industry is familiar with its use?

Jeff

---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:55 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FTB and askFSIS

Will it be for consumer packaged product? Do consumers know what "finely textured beef" is?

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:53 AM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** FTB and askFSIS

Dan and Rachel,

We have received two requests in askFSIS for the use of a "contains no finely textured beef" claim. One is from (b) (6) at Cargill, the other is from an Inspector at a small plant. I don't necessarily see an issue with this claim. I think we will see more requests from industry since AMS has

announced that schools will have a choice next year to order product either with or without FTB. An easy way for an end user to know that none is present is through a label claim. I think it would be similar to a claim such as "contains no meat from advanced meat recovery systems." These claims differ slightly from other claims we often see, e.g., "no MSG," "no pork," etc. because unlike MSG or pork, FTB will not ever be listed in the ingredients statement. I wanted to see if you had any concerns with LPDD approving such a claim, I know this is a sensitive issue.

Thanks,

Jeff

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FTB and askFSIS  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:46:53 AM  
**Attachments:** [LFTB claim.jc.docx](#)

---

Dan and Rachel,

Here is the one pager. We identified three options and recommended one. We believe allowing the claim for non-retail product only is probably the best approach if we are to allow a claim.

Jeff

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:57 AM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FTB and askFSIS

I don't have a problem with the claim but we MUST have approval from the Administrator's office before accepting. Put together a one-pager (half page is probably more than enough) so that I can send the issue to them. I will ask them to agree, not agree, or ask us for more information

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (b) (6) -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:55 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FTB and askFSIS

Will it be for consumer packaged product? Do consumers know what "finely textured beef" is?

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FTB and askFSIS  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:15:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [LFTB claim.jc.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

This is what I just put together. Let me know what you think. Little longer than ½ page but I think ok, really needed to break it into 3 options and briefly describe the potential impact.

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:57 AM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FTB and askFSIS

I don't have a problem with the claim but we MUST have approval from the Administrator's office before accepting. Put together a one-pager (half page is probably more than enough) so that I can send the issue to them. I will ask them to agree, not agree, or ask us for more information

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

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**From:** [Herb Ostach](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: FW: CSO positions - 52's required in HRO by Friday March 2, 2012  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 9:20:30 PM

---

he was talking about pink slime in ground beef. the news also showed how usda is involved politically with the industry.

On Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 8:55 PM, Behney, Jan - FSIS

<Jan.Behney@fsis.usda.gov> wrote:

> No-what was he saying or doing? Can you believe it has been 2 months since you have been retired?

> -----

> Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

>

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: Herb Ostach [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@gmail.com](mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com)]

> Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 07:45 PM

> To: Behney, Jan - FSIS

> Subject: Re: FW: CSO positions - 52's required in HRO by Friday March 2, 2012

>

> Did you see Carl Cuhe was talking about pink slimester on ABC news tonight?

>

> On Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 7:23 AM, Herb Ostach <[herbostach@gmail.com](mailto:herbostach@gmail.com)> wrote:

>> It looks like a mess. Sandy and I are doing great. I hope you and your

>> family are well also

>>

>> On Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 7:09 AM, Behney, Jan - FSIS

>> <Jan.Behney@fsis.usda.gov> wrote:

>>> See Yvonne's proposed timeline letter and here I thought you were retired!

>>> Should we send our selection to your home address????? How are you and Sandy

>>> enjoying retirement?

>>>

>>> Jan T. Behney

>>> District Manager

>>> USDA,FSIS,FO,DO60

>>> 701 Market St., 4th Floor, Suite 4100A

>>> Mellon Independence Center

>>> Philadelphia, PA 19106

>>> Telephone: 215-430-6301 or 800-637-6681 ext 4306301

>>> Fax: 215-597-5009

>>> email: [jan.behney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:jan.behney@fsis.usda.gov)

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>>>

>>>

>>>

>>> From: Cooke, Robert (RMPS) - FSIS

>>> Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 8:39 AM

>>> To: Behney, Jan - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Nelson, Ron - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

>>> Cc: (b) (6)

- FSIS

>>> Subject: FW: CSO positions - 52's required in HRO by Friday March 2, 2012

>>> Importance: High

>>>

>>>

>>> Good Morning – Please see the message below regarding announcing the EIAO positions. Several districts need to confirm that HRO has received their SF-52. The recruitment is scheduled to begin March 6, 2012.

>>>

>>> Thanks

>>> Robert Cooke

>>> Director, Resource Management & Planning Staff, OFO

>>> Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

>>> 202-418-8928 (Desk) 202-841-5541 (Cell) 202-245-5095 (Fax)

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>> From: (b) (6) - FSIS

>>> Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 7:36 AM

>>> To: Cooke, Robert (RMPS) - FSIS

>>> Cc: (b) (6)

>>> FSIS

>>> Subject: CSO positions - 52's required in HRO by Friday March 2, 2012

>>> Importance: High

>>>

>>>

>>> Good Morning,

>>> These are the only 3 districts that I'm aware replied to your email. We are still missing 52's even for these. Since these are to open March 6th, please confirm this morning these are all we will need to announce.

>>>

>>>

>>> Philadelphia District-Wyalusing..... (HRO does not have the 52)

>>> Raleigh District - Louisville, KY.....SF-52#D16-12-0111 (HRO has received)

>>> Alameda District – Diamond Bar, CA (2 positions) (HRO does not have the 52's)

>>>

>>> Thank-you,

>>> (b) (6)

>>> Lead Human Resources Specialist

>>> OM, OCHRO, Human Resources Operations

>>> USDA, Food Safety Inspection Service

>>> 100 North 6th St, Ste 420C

>>> Mpls, MN 55403

>>> Phone: (b) (6) 6 Fax: 612-370-2062

>>> E-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

>>> FSIS career opportunities: [www.foodsafetyjobs.gov](http://www.foodsafetyjobs.gov)

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>> From: (b) (6) - FSIS

>>> Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 9:17 AM

>>> To: Cooke, Robert (RMPS) - FSIS

>>> Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS

>>> Subject: CSO positions - 52's required in HRO by Friday March 2, 2012

>>> Importance: High

>>>

>>>

>>> Morning,

>>> Here's the revised timeline we spoke about this morning. You indicated we  
>>> probably won't have a lot of openings this time to announce. Once we get all  
>>> the recruit 52's in this week we may list multiple locations on a few of the  
>>> announcements. Depends on what we get. Also, in order to minimize doing  
>>> multiple interviews, I believe Dr. (b) (6) headed a team to look at  
>>> applicants who applied to different locations. (HR sent a listing?) That way  
>>> only one interview would be done instead of interviewing the same applicant  
>>> multiple times for every location they applied. Do you know if this  
>>> approach was successful or if it will be requested this time?

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>> Thank-you,

>>> (b) (6)

>>> Lead Human Resources Specialist

>>> OM, OCHRO, Human Resources Operations

>>> USDA, Food Safety Inspection Service

>>> 100 North 6th St, Ste 420C

>>> Mpls, MN 55403

>>> Phone: (b) (6) 6 Fax: 612-370-2062

>>> E-mail: (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

>>> FSIS career opportunities: [www.foodsafetyjobs.gov](http://www.foodsafetyjobs.gov)

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>> From: Cooke, Robert (RMPS) - FSIS

>>> Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 11:02 AM

>>> To: (b) (6) - FSIS

>>> Subject: RE: URGENT: CSO positions

>>>

>>>

>>> (b) (6) - I just learned the training dates are 4/16-5/11

>>>

>>> Thanks

>>>

>>> Robert Cooke

>>> Director, Resource Management & Planning Staff, OFO

>>> Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

>>> 202-418-8928 (Desk) 202-841-5541 (Cell) 202-245-5095 (Fax)

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>> From: Cooke, Robert (RMPS) - FSIS

>>> Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:01 PM

>>> To: (b) (6) - FSIS

>>> Cc: (b) (6) FSIS

>>> Subject: RE: CSO positions - 52's required in HRO by Friday March 2, 2012

>>>

>>>

>>> (b) (6) - it looks as though we will have 3 or 4 EIAO positions to announce.

>>> I still need to hear from a few other districts, so far the following

>>> locations are identified by the District Managers.

>>>



>>>  
>>> Raleigh District - Louisville, KY  
>>> Philadelphia District - Wyalusing, PA  
>>> Alameda District – Diamond Bar, CA (2 positions)  
>>>  
>>> Thanks  
>>> Robert Cooke  
>>> Director, Resource Management & Planning Staff, OFO  
>>> Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
>>> 202-418-8928 (Desk) 202-841-5541 (Cell) 202-245-5095 (Fax)  
>>> From: Cooke, Robert (RMPS) - FSIS  
>>> Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:31 AM  
>>> To: FSIS - District Office Managers; FSIS - Deputy District Office Managers  
>>> Subject: Next EIAO Class - April 16th - May 11th  
>>>  
>>> District Managers – Our next EIAO class is scheduled for April 16, 2012 -  
>>> May 11, 2012. We need to know the names of candidates for the class and if  
>>> you have any EIAO positions that need to be announced prior to the class.  
>>> Our employment records indicate that most approved EIAO positions are  
>>> already filled so I hope we can announce and make selections within the  
>>> limited time available.  
>>>  
>>> Please get back with me ASAP if you need to announce a position so we can  
>>> get the job posted later this week  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> Thanks  
>>> Robert Cooke  
>>> Director, Resource Management & Planning Staff, OFO  
>>> Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
>>> 202-418-8928 (Desk) 202-841-5541 (Cell) 202-245-5095 (Fax)  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely  
>>> for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message  
>>> or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law  
>>> and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you  
>>> have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the  
>>> email immediately.  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>> --  
>> H. OSTACH  
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> H. OSTACH  
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--  
H. OSTACH

**From:** [Michael Whitaker](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Drover Cattle Network Article -- Slime wars – BPI responds  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:42:19 AM

---

Thank you, Inspector.

>>> (b) (6) - FSIS" (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov> 3/22/2012 8:56 AM >>>  
Here is the info that is talking about Pink Slime,  
Hope it is helpful. Let me know.  
Insp. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:06 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Drover Cattle Network Article -- Slime wars – BPI responds

Ever heard of this “pink slime?”

(b) (6)  
*Relief Consumer Safety Inspector*  
*Chicago District 50-02*  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:17 PM  
**Subject:** Drover Cattle Network Article -- Slime wars – BPI responds

## Slime wars – BPI responds

Drovers Cattle Network | Updated: March 14, 2012

As the media continues to stir the pot regarding “pink slime” used in ground beef products, Craig Letch, director of food safety and quality assurance with Beef Products Inc., (BPI) the world’s largest processor of lean beef processed from lean trimmings, offers the company’s perspective on the maligned product.

Speaking with [AgriTalk Radio's](#) Mike Adams, Lesch explains that BPI produces lean, finely textured beef (LFTB) from beef trimmings. The trimmings come from processors removing fat, and lean beef, from steaks, roasts and other cuts. The trimmings begin as about half fat and half lean beef. BPI uses a centrifuge process to separate the lean from the fat, resulting in a product that is about 95 percent lean. The process changes the texture of the lean beef, resulting in a product similar to finely ground beef.

As we know, ground or blended beef products carry a potential risk for food-borne pathogens because microbes, if present, are distributed through the product, which makes them somewhat less likely to be killed during cooking compared with those on the surface of whole-muscle cuts. So, Letch says, BPI uses interventions to reduce the possibility of microbial contamination. During processing, the company uses or ammonium hydroxide, a natural product, to elevate the pH of the LFTB, which he says is extremely effective in killing any microbes. “It is a temporary effect,” he says. It makes no physical changes to the LFTB, nor has any lasting effects on the taste or texture of the beef.

The resulting product is pink, Letch says, because it is pure beef, with a little fat. The LFTB is used as a lean ingredient in hamburger, sausage, ground beef, and in many other foods. "Pink slime," Letch says, is derogatory term that is not based on facts.

BPI offers descriptions of its process for producing LFTB, and its food-safety interventions, on the recently launched [pinkslimeisamyth.com](http://pinkslimeisamyth.com).

Most distressing to Letch and BPI are the implications in the media and elsewhere that their LFTB product is unsafe. He understands that consumers are confused, concerned and frustrated due to misconceptions resulting from misleading information.

"As a company," he says, "we have strived to for decades to continuously improve our product." BPI has invested in extensive food-safety systems since early 1990s when *E. coli* O157:H7 first emerged as a food-safety issue. BPI was one of the first meat processors to implement a "hold and test" system, in which they send product samples to a third-party laboratory for safety testing, and hold all products until confirmed free of pathogens. BPI also was one of first to voluntarily begin testing for non-O157:H7 STEC (shiga toxin producing *E. coli*) pathogens. The USDA will begin requiring processors to test for those pathogens in June of this year, but BPI has done so since June 2011. "We are extremely proactive in our approach to food safety," Letch says.

A [news release from BPI](#) in response to the issue includes statements from several industry leaders regarding the safety and wholesomeness of the company's products.

For more on this issue, read Greg Henderson's commentary "[We should be outraged, but not over pink slime.](#)"

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**From:** (b) (6) @juno.com  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Emailing: pink slime Search Results TheBlaze.com.htm  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 3:04:40 PM

---

WS used to use pink slime in hotdogs i think.....don't tell fred

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>  
**To:** (b) (6) @juno.com" (b) (6) @juno.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Emailing: pink slime Search Results TheBlaze.com.htm  
**Date:** Thu, 29 Mar 2012 18:35:00 +0000

I'm hungry—going to Dino's

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:36 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Emailing: pink slime Search Results TheBlaze.com.htm

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**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Remove 100% of all "meat paste" and non-food products from school lunches.  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:36:12 PM

---

At least we'll be able to say we knew Jarvis before he was famous.

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:35 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Remove 100% of all "meat paste" and non-food products from school lunches.

Great, so we're playing right into their hands.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**From:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Remove 100% of all "meat paste" and non-food products from school lunches.  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:37:36 PM

---

Let's talk when you have a second  
Not urgent

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:52 PM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Remove 100% of all "meat paste" and non-food products from school lunches.

Now?

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)



Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:55 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Remove 100% of all "meat paste" and non-food products from school lunches.

When can we chat?

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:35 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Remove 100% of all "meat paste" and non-food products from school lunches.

Great, so we're playing right into their hands.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building

Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:31 PM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Remove 100% of all "meat paste" and non-food products from school lunches.

FYI the woman who started the petition is doing a full media blitz today.

---

**From:** Sarah Ryan [\[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@change.org\]](mailto:(b) (6)@change.org)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:15 PM  
**To:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Remove 100% of all "meat paste" and non-food products from school lunches.

I'm not working on this campaign (we're just working with Bettina Seigel- no other pink slime campaigns). But if you send me to appropriate person/email address this petition should be targeting, I can pass it along to this petition creator.

Also, can we chat today? Bettina is going to be going on top tier media shows so it would be great to chat beforehand.

Thanks,  
Sarah

On Tue, Mar 13, 2012 at 5:46 PM, Lavalley, Aaron - OC <[Aaron.Lavalley@oc.usda.gov](mailto:Aaron.Lavalley@oc.usda.gov)> wrote:

This is not productive when these folks send this my way – any way to direct this to the appropriate place?

**From:** (b) (6) @juno.com  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Yo Man.  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:51:46 PM

---

i can see y lol...hez a gonner w too mush tyme on hiz handz

----- Original Message -----

**From:** "(b) (6) - FSIS" (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>  
**To:** (b) (6) @juno.com" (b) (6) @juno.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Yo Man.  
**Date:** Fri, 9 Mar 2012 17:33:20 +0000

Thanks, (b) (6) I needed a laugh!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:16 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Yo Man.

That is one cool tractor. I wished I had one. I could see myself putting down the field warring bib overhauls and a straw hat. Does that one belong to the McMarely Farm?

The solar storms were not as bad as they said they might be. However they did say it may not be over yet. Stay tuned. I like (b) (6) idea of storm chasing. Who knows maybe someday I may give it a try. I took a basic course in meteorology once so I know quite a bit about it. If I do storm chasing I would need a driver as I hear there is a lot of beer drinking done in that endeavor.

I never heard of pink slime before. At least they sterilize it before they give it to the kids. I am with usda on this one. What you do not know will not hurt you. So just eat your hamburger and do not ask any questions.

My wife is always complaining about grizzle in her ground beef. I just tell her not to chew her food sooo much. Just swallow it like a man. She is such a cry baby.

If you see Mr. McMarely tell him I say hello. Let him know I trimmed my blue berries and apple trees this week. I will have to fertilize the asparagus before long. I am sure he is getting busy. You should go over and give him a hand. I remember once during Easter vacation an apple orchard hired a bunch of kids to drag off limbs they had trimmed. We made some money that week.

Got to go. I am a busy man. Just because I am retiring I am not going to slack off. I am going to be a trooper right up to the end. Over and out. (b) (6)

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ately.

████████████████████

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Thompson, Charles - FSIS](#); [Rivera, Miguel - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Fwd: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:35:54 AM

---

Thanks. I've forwarded this to GDIT, (b) (6), so they will be aware too.

(b) (6), IT Specialist  
USDA, Food Safety & Inspection Service  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Infrastructure Operations Division  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Room 0153 South Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20250  
(b) (6) (Office)  
(b) (6) (Blackberry)  
202-690-3738 (Fax)

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at: <http://service/footprints>. Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or PDA or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, and then contact the FSIS Service Desk at (800) 473-9135.

---

**From:** Thompson, Charles - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 5:05 PM  
**To:** Rivera, Miguel - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Fwd: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services

Ok

Charles W. Thompson  
Branch Chief USDA/FSIS/OCIO  
Infrastructure Operations Division (IOD)  
Engineering Branch Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 0149 South Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington DC 20250-3700  
Office: (202) 692-4230  
Mobile: (202) 679-2978

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the help desk <http://service/footprints> Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other Personal Data Assistant (PDA) or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) Incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, and then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1 (800) 473-9135.

**From:** (b) (6) - Contractor - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - Contractor - FSIS; (b) (6) - Contractor - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) Contractor - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Fwd: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:06:46 AM

---

Bigger question is why is (b) (6) involved.....

(b) (6)  
General Dynamic Information Technology  
Sr. System Administrator  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER, OCIO  
4920 Bob Billings Parkway  
Lawrence, KS 66049-3855  
(b) (6) - Blackberry  
(b) (6) - BB Pin  
(b) (6) - Cell  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the service desk  
<http://service/footprints>  
Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other personal data assistant or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1-800-473-9135.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - Contractor - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:03 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Contractor - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - Contractor - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Fwd: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services

Shouldn't information like this be going to the Service Desk? Need to streamline information like this. There's too much siloing of information as it relates to issues like this.

(b) (6) (Contractor)  
Lead Systems Engineer, GDIT  
USDA/FSIS/OA/OCIO  
1400 Independence Avenue SW,  
Washington DC 20250-3708  
Room 0137-South Building  
Email: (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov  
Office: (b) (6)  
BB: (b) (6)

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the service desk  
<http://service/footprints> Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other Personal Data Assistant (PDA) or Personally Identifiable Information (PII) Incident? Immediately contact USDA-FSIS AT 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, and then contact FSIS Service Desk at 1(800)473-9135.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:27 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - Contractor - FSIS; (b) (6) - Contractor - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Fwd: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services

FYI.

(b) (6), IT Specialist  
USDA, Food Safety & Inspection Service  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Infrastructure Operations Division  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Room 0153 South Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20250  
(b) (6) (Office)  
(b) (6) (Blackberry)  
202-690-3738 (Fax)

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---

**From:** Thompson, Charles - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 5:05 PM  
**To:** Rivera, Miguel - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Fwd: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services

Ok

Charles W. Thompson  
Branch Chief USDA/FSIS/OCIO  
Infrastructure Operations Division (IOD)  
Engineering Branch Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 0149 South Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington DC 20250-3700  
Office: (202) 692-4230  
Mobile: (202) 679-2978

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<http://service/footprints> Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other Personal Data Assistant (PDA) or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) Incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, and then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1 (800) 473-9135.

---

**From:** Rivera, Miguel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 03:43 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Charles - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fwd: ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services

Charles,

This was discussed this morning. We may have to help create a rule for the individuals' mailbox. Let's see what happens.

Miguel A Rivera

Chief Technology Officer

Office of the Chief Information Officer

Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA

[Miguel.Rivera2@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Miguel.Rivera2@fsis.usda.gov)

Phone: 202.720.4791 | Fax: 202.720.3984 | Cell: (b) (6)

"Operational Excellence: Enhancing Productivity with Technology"

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the help desk <http://service/footprints> . Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other Personal Data Assistant (PDA) or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) Incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, and then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1 (800) 473-9135.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Stevens, Janet - FSIS" <[Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov)>

**Date:** March 10, 2012 11:15:49 AM EST

**To:** (b) (6)

[fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)>

**Cc:** "Mayes, Carl - FSIS" <[Carl.Mayes@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Carl.Mayes@fsis.usda.gov)>

**Subject:** ALERT: Online Petition May Have Potential to Impacts Services

All,

I was just made aware of a new online petition to ask USDA (meaning FSIS and AMS) to stop using "pink slime" in school lunches. There is the potential for increased website and email volume for our infrastructure. A similar [change.org](http://change.org) petition to Secretary Vilsack and 4 other USDA officials was posted on 3/6/12 and gathered more than 11,000 signatures in 3 days.

The petition to stop the "pink slime" can be found at: [http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink\\_slime/](http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink_slime/) . We will likely be asked to set up a rule on some senior executives' Outlook accounts to autoforward to folder. Please be vigilant for VIP requests in regards to the petition as well as potential impacts to the infrastructure. Please escalate any requests or issues to Carl and me immediately throughout the weekend and next week.

Best Regards,  
Janet

Janet B. Stevens, PMP  
Chief Information Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA  
[Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov)

Phone: 202-205-9950 | Fax: 202-690-3903 | Cell: (b) (6)

Visit the FSIS Web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

FSIS Employees, visit your intranet site, InsideFSIS: <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov>

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the Service Desk: <http://service/footprints> or call 1-800-473-9135.

Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other personal data assistant or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1-(800) 473-9135.

**From:** [cindy.deyrup](#)  
**To:** [Cornett, Julie - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Fwd: FW: JAVMA 10-10-0594  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:05:25 PM

---

I didn't know you could torndao-proof a house. I've been out in the Gulf when there were water spouts. Made me nervous.

On Tue, Mar 20, 2012 at 8:27 AM, Cornett, Julie - FSIS  
<[Julie.Cornett@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Julie.Cornett@fsis.usda.gov)> wrote:

hi Cindy – I tell you one thing though – I admire all of you guys who keep pushing this thing through. What a nightmare – I had no idea it was so messy getting a journal article published. My hats off to you and (b) (6)

Regrettably I have no basement – because I still owned the house in Omaha (couldn't sell) while I was house hunting down here I ended up buying as decent but inexpensive small house as I could here in Arkansas. I am still having problems downsizing – not enough storage space. Ha ha.

With all the tornado's we have seen the last several years though I am thinking I should make the whole house a "safe room". You sound really busy and like you are having tons of fun. I really look forward to retiring myself.

I am going to hang onto your email address – promise I will do better keeping in touch. The last several years have been a fog. Too much to do.

Talk to you soon, Julie

***J.A. Cornett, DVM, MPH***

Deputy District Manager, Springdale D.O.

4700 S. Thompson, Springdale AR 72764

[800-457-6505](tel:800-457-6505)/ [479-751-8412](tel:479-751-8412)

---

**From:** cindy deyrup [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 10:00 PM  
**To:** Cornett, Julie - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Fwd: FW: JAVMA 10-10-0594

I hope you have a basement. I'd sent (b) (6) an email 10 days ago to find out what was going on with the article. I don't know if it was a coincidence or if Alice Thaler did something, but back came this email.

I guess the slaughterhouses like the KIS, but the labs don't. Too many false positives, but that's better than false negatives. Carl Custer sent me stuff on pink slime. Did you see his 10 sec of fame on ABC?

I'm taking tai chi and a film class. No work there, just relaxing. I'm also doing German play-reading with a group. We're reading Medea in German. Lots of work for that and also for another German course I'm taking. I work out, swim, and ride, but all that hasn't stopped my joints from stiffening up. On the whole, I'd rather be younger.

.

On Mon, Mar 19, 2012 at 10:46 PM, Cornett, Julie - FSIS  
<[Julie.Cornett@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Julie.Cornett@fsis.usda.gov)> wrote:

Hi Cindy. I don't know much. Just sitting here in NW arkansas watching tornado warnings. I am amazed we heard fm javma - I had forgotten about this. Good to hear from you. How's life on the other side of fsis? Julie

-----  
Sent from my BlueBerry Wireless Handheld  
Julie Cornett,DVM MPH  
USDA FSIS SDO  
bb479-530-6520  
[julie.cornett@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:julie.cornett@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** cindy deyrup [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 09:41 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (b) (6)@fda.hhs.gov>; Cornett, Julie - FSIS



**Subject:** Fwd: FW: JAVMA 10-10-0594

Whaddaya know?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS (b) (6) <(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov>  
Date: Mon, Mar 19, 2012 at 4:56 PM  
Subject: FW: JAVMA 10-10-0594  
To: cindy deyrup <(b) (6)@gmail.com>

FYI

(b) (6) D.V.M., M.P.H.

Surveillance Epidemiologist

USDA/FSIS/OPHS/AED/ZFHSB

1400 Independence Ave., SW

Stop 3766, PP3, Room 9-233B

Washington, DC 20250-3700

Office: (b) (6)

Fax: [202.690.6364](tel:202.690.6364)

email: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov>

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---

**From:** Carol Obodzinski [mailto:(b) (6)@avma.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 4:02 PM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Re: JAVMA 10-10-0594  
Importance: High

Dear Dr. (b) (6)

**\*\*\*PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THIS E-MAIL WITH TWO ATTACHMENTS\*\*\***

Editing of your manuscript has been completed, and the files you will need to prepare the final version of your manuscript are attached.

Please make any necessary changes to the document and any figures and upload the revised version of the document, figures, and responses to editor's comments to our online manuscript tracking system. To do this, the corresponding author should log on to the system at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/javma>, click on "Author Center," and then click on "Revised Manuscripts in Draft." Click on "Continue Submission" to respond to any of the comments from the editor and upload the manuscript and figures. You must upload all figures with the revised manuscript, even if figures have been uploaded previously and have not been revised. Processing of the manuscript will be delayed if all figures are not uploaded with the revised manuscript.

**Please do not upload the final version of your manuscript as a new manuscript.**

**You may fax the completed Corresponding Author Form to Fax Number [847-925-9329](tel:847-925-9329), upload it as a separate file when you upload your final version in Manuscript Central, or e-mail it to me as an e-mail attachment.**

The final version of the manuscript must be uploaded by **April 4, 2012**. If the manuscript is not returned by this date, it will be withdrawn from consideration.

Please contact me if you have any difficulties using the electronic files or uploading the final version of the manuscript. If you have any questions about the editorial changes that were made, please contact Dr. Aasha Sinha at [800-248-2862](tel:800-248-2862), extension 6745, or e-mail [asinha@avma.org](mailto:asinha@avma.org).

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

JAVMA Secretary

American Veterinary Medical Association

1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100

Schaumburg, IL 60173

[847-925-8070 Ext.](tel:847-925-8070) (b) (6)

Fax (b) (6)

(b) (6) [@avma.org](mailto:(b) (6)@avma.org)

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FYI - 2 additional "pink slime" inquiries for the list  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 2:36:06 PM

---

Give me a call

If it is Stephanie we need to have a terse convo with her upfront. None of this nice background convo then blindsiding us when it runs with a snarky headline.

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 2:24 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** FYI - 2 additional "pink slime" inquiries for the list

Bloomberg

Food Safety News

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FYI - another place where USDA TPs on "pink slime" is posted  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:47:25 AM

---

And yet AMI was nice enough to remove them from their site.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:30 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** FYI - another place where USDA TPs on "pink slime" is posted

Just FYI:

<http://www.explorebeef.org/CMDocs/ExploreBeef/LFTB%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

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<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FYI - I'll take over the KPRC (Houston) inquiry for FSIS on pink slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 4:34:11 PM

---

I connected with her – sent her our approved but make sure she doesn't need anything else.

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 4:24 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** FYI - I'll take over the KPRC (Houston) inquiry for FSIS on pink slime

I thought that was easier than trying to involve Neil at this stage...

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

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[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FYI - Training opportunity next Tuesday  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 4:24:53 PM

---

Yeah.... Well, we're trying to kick them to Jarvis' shop, so, hopefully, lucky him! ☺

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

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[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 4:22 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FYI - Training opportunity next Tuesday

Lucky you.

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building

Washington, DC 20250



O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460

[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at** <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 4:21 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FYI - Training opportunity next Tuesday

Great... I'll work the KPRC request from here, given that Aaron and I have been tag-teaming these. Easier than trying to bring you up to speed on where we're trying to go with it...

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

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[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 4:18 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FYI - Training opportunity next Tuesday

I will mark it on my calendar. Pink slime is now seeping my way – got a call from NBC affiliate in Houston. I sent the e-mail to Aaron after calling him.

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Washington, DC 20250

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[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 4:17 PM

**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS

**Subject:** FYI - Training opportunity next Tuesday

Sending an email so I don't forget. I'd like for you to plan to attend a training session next Tuesday in DC, at the Navy Memorial, 701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, from around 8 to 10 a.m. It is being hosted by PRSA, and focuses on discussions among assignment desks and futures editors about how to work with them on pitching stories. I think that will be good for everyone here to be able to learn more about, so I'd like for you to give us a wrap up of what they talked about either the week after this event or later if you end up going. You can register online at [www.prsa-ncc.org](http://www.prsa-ncc.org), and the cost is \$55. Please work with Nichele to arrange for the payment. Also, if you have a conflicting event or no interest in going, please let me know. Thanks!

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

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<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FYI  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:42:15 PM

---

Yep, that sounds like something he would say.

(b) (6)

CSI, IIC Est's. 10269, 40040 and

00676

USDA FSIS FO

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FYI

I had the radio on while driving and heard Rush talk about this a couple of weeks ago. He said the USDA "MADE" the meat companies make the pink slime.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FYI

In case people start firing questions regarding this sh...uff.

<< File: Pink slime 3.docx >>

(b) (6)

CSI, IIC Est's. 10269, 40040 and

00676

USDA FSIS FO

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FYI  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:19:58 PM

---

I didn't hear that, but I do know that the USDA (PHIS specifically) is making me go crazy.  
It's called the blue poo poo...

(b) (6) CSI/IIC

Est. 18988/18988A & 10165

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: FYI

I had the radio on while driving and heard Rush talk about this a couple of weeks ago. He said the USDA "MADE" the meat companies make the pink slime.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FYI

In case people start firing questions regarding this sh...uff.

<< File: Pink slime 3.docx >>

(b) (6)

CSI, IIC Est's. 10269, 40040 and

00676

USDA FSIS FO

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) -  
FSIS  
**Cc:** Evans, Peter - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Gary Acuff on Ammoniated Beef  
**Date:** Monday, January 09, 2012 5:17:37 PM

---

Hey, guess what? "Pink Slime" has its own Wikipedia page! (I note some inaccuracies but I'm not bothering to correct them).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink\\_Slime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink_Slime)

SWM

(b) (6), Ph.D.  
Data Analyst  
Office of Data Integration and Food Protection  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, 9th Floor, Cube 145B, PP3  
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202-690-6474  
202-690-6459 fax  
202-465-6156 bb  
860-930-8754 Cellphone  
Steve.Mamber@fsis.usda.gov



*Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to. Live Green!*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, January 09, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) -  
FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Gary Acuff on Ammoniated Beef

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYKbN38wqgo>

-----  
(b) (6), Ph.D.

Staff Officer, Microbiologist

USDA/FSIS/OPHS/MD/MIB

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Fax: 202 690 6364

Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - M. - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Michael, Matthew - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: Gerald is famous  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:29:43 PM

---

Let's just hope that star hits him.

-----  
(b) (6)  
USDA/FSIS/OFO  
**NEW:** (b) (6)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:30 AM  
**To:** Michael, Matthew - AMS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Gerald is famous

Just think, we can say we knew him before his stardom hit.

(b) (6), DVM, MS  
USDA FSIS  
International Equivalence Staff  
Room 2940-S  
(b) (6)

---

**From:** Michael, Matthew - AMS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Gerald is famous

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/whats-wrong-with-pink-slime/>

Matthew Michael  
Director, Compliance and Enforcement Division  
USDA National Organic Program  
1400 Independence Ave SW; Room 2959  
Washington, DC 20250-0268  
Phone: (202) 260-8657  
[matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov](mailto:matthew.michael@ams.usda.gov)



**From:** Doug Chartier  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Goal 2!  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 8:34:56 AM

---

Haha! Agreed.

-----Original Message-----

From: Hepner, Allen - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:54 AM  
To: Doug Chartier  
Subject: RE: Goal 2!

I'm waiting for the Strategic Plan to be covered on ABC World News, as opposed to Pink Slime...

-----Original Message-----

From: Doug Chartier [mailto:(b) (6)@northhighland.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:40 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Goal 2!

<http://blogs.usda.gov/2012/03/13/an-open-look-at-how-fsis-enforces-the-humane-handling-of-livestock/>

---

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**From:** [Len Lang](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Good morning  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:47:37 AM

---

Well good!!!  
As a consumer and old man I need to watch my diet

*Leonard Lang*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS" <(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov>  
**To:** 'Len Lang'(b) (6)@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:45 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Good morning

Oh yeah... We're on the job...

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Len Lang [mailto:(b) (6)@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:45 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Good morning

Well at least you took care of all the pink slime coming into the country; I was worried.

Of course I thing hamburger helper just does fine by itself also

*Leonard Lang*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS" (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov>  
**To:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com" (b) (6)@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:41 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Good morning

Yeah. Its a pain but yeah.

---

**From:** Len Lang [mailto:(b) (6)@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 07:38 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Good morning

U doing it from home?

*Leonard Lang*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS" <(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov>  
**To:** (b) (6)@yahoo.com" (b) (6)@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:36 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Good morning

Good morning. Still doing it. On again now.

---

**From:** Len Lang [mailto:(b) (6)@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 07:32 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Good morning

How was training

*Leonard Lang*

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 3:38:31 PM

---

Sometimes, but it's usually from warm, cold, warm, cold etc. ☺ I was restless last nite and didn't know why til I got up this morning and found out 2 big earthquakes in Japan, soooooooo that explains the anxious feelings since about Monday every morning when I get up. You slept really well when you got home from the hospital and on the road to recovery and you let all that old crap slip away.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:22 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

Don't you ever have trouble sleeping sometimes ?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:21 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

That's fine I was just asking if I could help in any way. When you're ready give me a yell and we'll talk.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:17 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

Right now I've had enough of the inquisition. Let's just shelve it for now

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:14 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

Take the time to look deep inside and you'll find the answers like you did when you were sick and healing. Are you hanging on to stuff that doesn't matter??

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:12 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

I don't know, If I did maybe I could sleep

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:10 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

What's making you crazy???

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

I didn't sleep much last night. Woke up at 1 am and couldn't go back to sleep ☹

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

WOW what's up with you??? Are you okay and can I help in any way???

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

No I don't. drop it

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

Yes you do and that doesn't have to be the end of the subject.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:50 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

I Don't look good in lace. End of subject.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:43 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

You need to get in touch with all things feminine. ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:13 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

Huh?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

We need to reclaim the Devine Feminine!!!! That will heal the ills of everything!!!! ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

The dark side is causing a disturbance in the force.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:41 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

Is Darth Vader there too???

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

In a galaxy far, far away

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

Where does this poo bah work???

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 8:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

The grand exhausted poo bah

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

Devine WHO then????

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

NO !!!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:19 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

(b) (6) ???

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:17 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

You would question the Devine ???

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:16 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

I don't know WHO the authority is, but maybe they should rethink their stand on this matter!!!!!!  
☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:14 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

Well I have it on good authority that I am as pure as the  
driven snow ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:11 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

Yes it does and one of us is the pot and the other is the kettle!!!! ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:06 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

It takes one to know one!!!!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

SMARTA@\*!!!!!! ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

And let there be light ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

OHHHHHHHHHH I get it now Ricky!!!!!! ☺ Thanks for the help with the English!!!! ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

That's not the way I read it. I will try to 'splain to you Lucy. 4( for) us 2(to) go to Vegas.....

---



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:14 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

Who are the other 2 going to Vegas if she feels up to it???

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:12 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

In her text she said “ 4 us 2 go to Vegas if I feel up to it” that’s when I told her we have 3 weeks, we’ll take our time. (b) (6)

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:04 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

Why did you change the font size??? It was fine the other way you know. All you can do is offer to take her if she wants to go. That would be a nice road trip to see if you can put up with each other for any length of time. Would suck to travel together on a long trip and find out you don't like spending that much time in each other's company. I guess folks are just now catching on to the pink slime thing. They didn't seem to mind feeding it to their kids in fast food burgers, so what's the difference if it's in that and school lunch burger??? I don't think it should be called ground beef either, but that's just my opinion!!!! I think it should be declared on the label and if it's used in meat in the restaurants, then it needs to be disclosed on all of the dishes it's used in on the menu. Of course that's just my opinion again. We all know what that's worth!!!! ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:57 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Got a text

I told her in a text I have 3 wks off next month and we would have lots of time, frequent stops, stay overnight. The seat reclines very nicely. I'll see what she answers. Thanks. R U busy ? I was reading some of the stuff on pink slime. Is this just now coming to light ?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**From:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:39:24 PM

---

Maybe she should read and find out the difference. Fresh can mean frozen for beef!

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792  
Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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-----Original Message-----

From: Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:27 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Cc: Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Mary Katherine,

Ros asked that I respond to your inquiry. These are more difficult because they are not really asking a question. They are not going to be happy with any response we give them. I think we can go back with the following though.

Lean finely textured beef (LFTB) is not considered a cooked or partially cooked product. Meat trimmings that can be labeled as beef but contain significant amounts of fat, e.g., up to 88 percent fat, are subjected to low temperatures (not to exceed 107 degrees Fahrenheit) in order to reduce the fat content. Because the temperature does not exceed 107 degrees Fahrenheit, the proteins are not denatured during the process. Therefore, the product does not appear to have been heat treated and has similar performance characteristics as "beef." LFTB cannot exceed 10 percent fat and typically contains a minimum of 14 percent protein has a protein efficiency ratio (PER) of 2.5, a measure of protein quality. These criteria ensure that LFTB is compositionally similar to beef and declared as "beef" in products in which it is used as an ingredient.

Jeff

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:00:37 PM

---

Kroger may have made a public announcement along with a number of others in the last day or two. But yeah, the company should answer the question.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 04:55 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

OK. Sounds like proprietary info, even if we did have it or access to it.

I'll check with (b) (6) tomorrow.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov  
www.fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 5:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

She can provide the general campaign language you can work from

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 04:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

I didn't know it was a 3-for-1 special. Ha ha.

It looks like these questions are getting specific. Is (b) (6) our current point person on messaging here?

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov  
www.fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:48 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Per your request....

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 7:44 AM  
To: FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)@att.net [mailto:(b) (6)@att.net]  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 7:29 PM  
To: Meat and Poultry Hotline  
Subject: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Can you tell me if Kroger (Atlanta metro stores) uses "PINK SLIME" ...They would not give me an answer...We are going to quit eating any kroger beef until we find out...

Thank You,  
Alan Hayes

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 3:12:35 PM

---

Thanks. Have a great weekend.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250  
Phone (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 3:11 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

(b) (6),

We don't have a regulatory or policy book standard which makes this touchy. I think we can modify to just remove the last sentence, I don't think it is needed here.

Jeff

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 2:55 PM  
To: Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Hi Jeff,

In the last sentence of your e-mail you mention that "These criteria ensure that LFTB is compositionally similar to beef and declared as "beef" in products n which it is used as an ingredient. Where can he find these criteria?

Thanks,

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250  
Phone (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:27 PM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Cc: Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

(b) (6),

(b) (6) asked that I respond to your inquiry. These are more difficult because they are not really asking a question. They are not going to be happy with any response we give them. I think we can go back with the following though.

Lean finely textured beef (LFTB) is not considered a cooked or partially cooked product. Meat trimmings that can be labeled as beef but contain significant amounts of fat, e.g., up to 88 percent fat, are subjected to low temperatures (not to exceed 107 degrees Fahrenheit) in order to reduce the fat content. Because the temperature does not exceed 107 degrees Fahrenheit, the proteins are not denatured during the process. Therefore, the product does not appear to have been heat treated and has similar performance characteristics as "beef." LFTB cannot exceed 10 percent fat and typically contains a minimum of 14 percent protein has a protein efficiency ratio (PER) of 2.5, a measure of protein quality. These criteria ensure that LFTB is compositionally similar to beef and declared as "beef" in products in which it is used as an ingredient.

Jeff

-----Original Message-----

immediately.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:43 AM  
To: Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Can you help me respond to this e-mail?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250  
Phone (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:54 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

One more with a specific issue related to LFTB:

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: CLEAN: Wash Hands and Surfaces Often SEPARATE: Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

COOK: Cook To The Right Temperature CHILL: Refrigerate Food Promptly

-----Original Message-----

From: Meat and Poultry Hotline

Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 7:44 AM

To: FSIS

Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Please see the attached.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) @rawdonlyers.com [mailto:(b) (6) @rawdonlyers.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:56 PM

To: Meat and Poultry Hotline

Subject: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

I have seen your position on this subject, that no extra labelling is required because the so-called Pink Slime is beef and not an additive to the beef.

However, Pink Slime is partially cooked (simmered) and then frozen. I firmly believe I have the right to know when I am buying previously frozen vs. fresh, and cooked vs. uncooked. If the store represents it's ground beef to be fresh (unfrozen) and completely uncooked, then I should be able to safely assume there is no Pink Slime in it. Otherwise it should be labelled PARTIALLY COOKED AND PREVIOUSLY FROZEN. Then I will know the truth as it should be.

Those have always been the rules. Fresh means never frozen, and uncooked means completely uncooked. The USDA should not allow the rules to be broken, otherwise why have them, and why have a USDA.

Thank you,  
Al Sheldon  
Loveland, OH.

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 3:10:52 PM

---

(b) (6)

We don't have a regulatory or policy book standard which makes this touchy. I think we can modify to just remove the last sentence, I don't think it is needed here.

Jeff

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 2:55 PM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Hi Jeff,

In the last sentence of your e-mail you mention that "These criteria ensure that LFTB is compositionally similar to beef and declared as "beef" in products in which it is used as an ingredient. Where can he find these criteria?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW, Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250  
Phone (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime

Mary (b) (6)

Ros asked that I respond to your inquiry. These are more difficult because they are not really asking a question. They are not going to be happy with any response we give them. I think we can go back with the following though.

Lean finely textured beef (LFTB) is not considered a cooked or partially cooked product. Meat trimmings that can be labeled as beef but contain significant amounts of fat, e.g., up to 88 percent fat, are subjected to low temperatures (not to exceed 107 degrees Fahrenheit) in order to reduce the fat content. Because the temperature does not exceed 107 degrees Fahrenheit, the proteins are not denatured during the process. Therefore, the product does not appear to have been heat treated and has similar performance characteristics as "beef." LFTB cannot exceed 10 percent fat and typically contains a minimum of 14 percent protein has a protein efficiency ratio (PER) of 2.5, a measure of protein quality. These criteria ensure that LFTB is compositionally similar to beef and declared as "beef" in products in which it is used as an ingredient.



**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 11:05:06 AM

---

I'll take it from here and let OC know... they might just want to send them the release, but I'll clear that with Aaron.

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 11:03 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

Any suggestions?

Neil Gaffney  
Press Officer  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O. 202-690-3386; BB 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460  
[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 7:06 AM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

Neil – I guess I should have anticipated an inquiry from Japan about this. Is there anything available that we can send back to Tokyo?

Thanks,

(b) (6)  
FSIS/OIA

---

**From:** (b) (6) I [mailto:(b) (6)@fas.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 5:14 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) (FAS)  
**Subject:** MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

(b) (6) :

The U.S. media stories on the "Pink Slime" concerns in the U.S. have caught the eye of MHLW here and they have contacted us with a series of questions. Namely:

- What kind of the product is "Pink Slime" and how is it different from original ground beef products?
- How the product is manufactured? Is the process different from manufacturing original ground beef products?
- What are specific USDA/FSIS rules and regulations in adding/applying ammonium hydroxide in beef?
- Are there any other additives added in "Pink Slime"?

Sato-san, our office Food Safety expert has read up on the issue, but couldn't fully understand the relation between pink slime and ammonium hydroxide. He notes:

Based on a quick search of CFR, I think ammonium hydroxide has GRAS status. "c) In accordance with §184.1(b)(1), the ingredient is used in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practices. The affirmation of this ingredient as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) as a direct human food ingredient is based upon the following current good manufacturing practice conditions of use".

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?type=simple;c=ecfr;cc=ecfr;sid=eae685992bcb459f20cf4dca497e8de6;region=DIV1;q1=Ammonium%20hydroxide;rgn=div8;view=text;idno=21;node=21%3A3.0.1.1.14.2.1.31>

Given the sensitivity on this issue, we'd like to get official guidance from FSIS and Washington on what talking points we can say. I'm not sure it's even exported but want to clarify with you first.

Thanks

(b) (6)

(b) (6)  
Agricultural Attaché  
Office of Agricultural Affairs/FAS

U S. Embassy, Tokyo

Tel (b) (6)

Fax 03-3589-0793

(b) (6) [@fas.usda.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@fas.usda.gov)

**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Kishore, Rita - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 11:02:23 AM

---

Let me ask around. Will be back in touch.

Neil Gaffney  
*Press Officer*  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O. 202-690-3386; BB 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460  
[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:46 AM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** Kishore, Rita - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

Thanks, Neil. I've forwarded this to FAS/Tokyo.

Hate to be picky but the Japanese ask some fairly technical questions that aren't really addressed in the press release. Could their inquiry be addressed to technical folks for a response? As Rita has noted, probably other countries will come forward with the similar questions.

(b) (6)  
FSIS/OIA

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:22 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

Here you go:

[http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&edeployment\\_action=retrievecontent](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&edeployment_action=retrievecontent)

Neil Gaffney  
*Press Officer*  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O. 202-690-3386; BB 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460  
[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 7:06 AM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

Neil – I guess I should have anticipated an inquiry from Japan about this. Is there anything available that we can send back to Tokyo?

Thanks,

(b) (6)  
FSIS/OIA

**From:** Kishore, Rita - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) -FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:41:45 AM

---

You are right. What we need to ask Neil is if the agency has developed some talking points for this. Other countries are going to ask the same question.

---

**From:** Dutrow, Ralph - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:37 AM  
**To:** Kishore, Rita - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

Any suggestions as to who might be able to actually answer the questions MHLW asks at the bottom?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:36 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) FAS  
**Subject:** FW: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

This doesn't really provide answers to any of the questions below; it's a Departmental release that focuses on the school lunch program.

(b) (6)  
FSIS/OIA

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:22 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

Here you go:

[http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&edeployment\\_action=retrievecontent](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&edeployment_action=retrievecontent)

Neil Gaffney  
Press Officer  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O. 202-690-3386; BB 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460  
[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>

**From:** (b) (6) -FSIS  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 9:30:49 AM

---

Thanks. Of course it's the weekend in Tokyo so anytime today would be fine.....(b) (6)

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 9:29 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

The Department has been calling the shots on this and haven't really shared their stuff with us yet. Let me see what I can get you ASAP.

Neil Gaffney  
Press Officer  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O. 202-690-3386; BB 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460  
[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 7:06 AM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

Neil – I guess I should have anticipated an inquiry from Japan about this. Is there anything available that we can send back to Tokyo?

Thanks,  
(b) (6)  
FSIS/OIA

---

**From:** (b) (6) I [mailto:(b) (6)@fas.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 5:14 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) uyu (FAS)  
**Subject:** MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

(b) (6) :

The U.S. media stories on the "Pink Slime" concerns in the U.S. have caught the eye of MHLW here and they have contacted us with a series of questions. Namely:

- What kind of the product is "Pink Slime" and how is it different from original ground beef products?
- How the product is manufactured? Is the process different from manufacturing original ground beef products?
- What are specific USDA/FSIS rules and regulations in adding/applying ammonium hydroxide in beef?
- Are there any other additives added in "Pink Slime"?

Sato-san, our office Food Safety expert has read up on the issue, but couldn't fully understand the relation between pink slime and ammonium hydroxide. He notes:

Based on a quick search of CFR, I think ammonium hydroxide has GRAS status. "c) In accordance with §184.1(b)(1), the ingredient is used in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practices. The affirmation of this ingredient as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) as a direct human food ingredient is based upon the following current good manufacturing practice conditions of use".

<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?>

[type=simple;c=ecfr;cc=ecfr;sid=eae685992bcb459f20cf4dca497e8de6;region=DIV1;q1=Ammonium%20hydroxide;rgn=div8;view=text;idno=21;node=21%3A3.0.1.1.14.2.1.31](http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?type=simple;c=ecfr;cc=ecfr;sid=eae685992bcb459f20cf4dca497e8de6;region=DIV1;q1=Ammonium%20hydroxide;rgn=div8;view=text;idno=21;node=21%3A3.0.1.1.14.2.1.31)

Given the sensitivity on this issue, we'd like to get official guidance from FSIS and Washington on what talking points we can say. I'm not sure it's even exported but want to clarify with you first.

Thanks  
(b) (6)

(b) (6)  
Agricultural Attaché  
Office of Agricultural Affairs/FAS  
U.S. Embassy, Tokyo  
Tel: (b) (6)  
Fax 03-3589-0793  
(b) (6) [@fas.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fas.usda.gov)

**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Kishore, Rita - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 11:11:08 AM

---

It looks like OC will now be reaching out to you all (it s never as simple as it seems). They may try to just give you all the press release – I told them you already saw it.

Neil Gaffney  
*Press Officer*  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
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<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived.** Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:46 AM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** Kishore, Rita - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: MHLW questions on "Pink Meat" issue

Thanks, Neil. I ve forwarded this to FAS/Tokyo.

Hate to be picky but the Japanese ask some fairly technical questions that aren t really addressed in the press release. Could their inquiry be addressed to technical folks for a response? As Rita has noted, probably other countries will come forward with the similar questions.

(b) (6)  
FSIS/OIA

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Minor language change for Pink Slime letters  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:48:22 AM

---

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250

Phone (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:38 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Minor language change for Pink Slime letters  
**Importance:** High

Hi (b) (6)

Please use the approved language below:

All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years, and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Check your Steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basis/index.html>**

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1627 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:37:30 PM

---

Thanks!

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:32 PM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** West, Walinda - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1627 PROJ=63

Here's the statement on this issue that we are providing to reporters:

All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 2:20 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1627 PROJ=63

Hi Dirk,

Do you have any current, approved language I can provide for this inquiry. There is a deadline of March 9.

Thanks.  
Peggy

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [<mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 1:06 PM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS



**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1627 PROJ=63

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

**Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1627](#)

**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)

**Secondary Subject:**

**Call Date:** [03/08/2012 12:45 PM](#)

**Contact Name:** [Sam Young](#)

**Caller Type:** [Primary Constituent](#)

**Contact Phone Number:** (b) (6)

**Cell Phone Number:**

**Alt. Phone Number:**

**Contact Email Address:**

**Employer/Organization:** [Private Citizen](#)

**Call Info:** [Entered on 2012-03-08 at 13:06:53 by \(b\) \(6\)](#) :

[RE: Broadcast on Pink Slime added to meat.](#)

[What stores are adding the slime? Please call by tomorrow \(3/9/12\).](#)

**Notes:** [Entered on 03/08/2012 at 13:06:52 EST \(GMT-0500\) by \(b\) \(6\)](#) :  
[ no Notes entered ]

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. ♦ Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. ♦ Update ticket [1627](#) with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:07:35 PM

---

Ok.

---

**From:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:07 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63

Just remembered that we were not calling him back since he did not request a call back (checked with (b) (6) and (b) (6) last Friday to confirm this). I can close out.

---

**From:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:55 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63

Ok that I give Mr. (b) (6) the same response, or are we waiting on something (since Senator Gillibrand was being contacted by the Constituent)?

---

**From:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:16 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63

Did you respond to this one? We were going to talk about this one (which I cc'd to (b) (6) and (b) (6) as an FYI) and the Consultant one but then it came time to publish. I can send the response if you did not handle then.

I saw you responded to Mr. (b) (6) last Friday.

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:06 AM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

**Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1628](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**

**Call Date:** 03/08/2012 7:00 PM  
**Contact Name:** Glenn Sukys  
**Caller Type:** Primary Constituent  
**Contact Phone Number:** (b) (6)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:** (b) (6)@q.com  
**Employer/Organization:** consumer  
**Call Info:** Entered on 2012-03-09 at 09:06:26 by Nichele Derrickson :

Message was retrieved from voicemail.

Constituent is very concerned about the "pink slime" issues that was reported by ABC news on Wednesday and Thursday this week. He would like USDA to reverse any permission to use "pink slime" in any product. Glenn mentioned he is currently reaching out to Senator Kristen Gillibrand as well.

**Notes:** *Entered on 03/09/2012 at 09:06:25 EST (GMT-0500) by Nichele Derrickson:*  
[ no Notes entered ]

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. ♦ Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. ♦ Update ticket **1628** with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1630 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:54:03 PM

---

I talked with someone finally and received the correct email. No problem

---

**From:** Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:54 PM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1630 PROJ=63

Hi Peggy,

The email address is (b) (6) [@pwcgov.org](#).

Thanks.

Nichele Derrickson,  
*Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175 - South Building  
Phone: (202) 720-9113  
Fax: (202) 720-5704  
[nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:08 PM  
**To:** Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1630 PROJ=63

Hi Nichele,

Would you check the email address for the caller as the emails are coming back as undeliverable to me? I need to send out a response. Thanks. Peggy

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [<mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1630 PROJ=63

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

**Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** 1630  
**Subject of Call:** Miscellaneous  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** 03/12/2012 10:55 AM  
**Contact Name:** Peter Candland  
**Caller Type:** Primary Constituent  
**Contact Phone Number:** (b) (6)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:** (b) (6) @pwcs.edu  
**Employer/Organization:** Prince William County Public Schools  
**Call Info:** Entered on 2012-03-12 at 10:58:38 by Nichele Derrickson :

RE: Requesting a statement from USDA  
concerning the "pink slime" in school lunches.

Many constituents are calling and they would  
like to have a statement to provided these  
callers.

Email address: (b) (6) @pwcs.edu

**Notes:** Entered on 03/12/2012 at 10:58:37 EDT (GMT-0400) by Nichele Derrickson:  
[ no Notes entered ]

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. ♦ Please open the ticket to  
see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. ♦ Update ticket **1630** with the information  
that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#); [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#); [McIntire, Richard - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1632 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:19:50 AM

---

I will take care of it (and likely send straight to our friends in OC)...

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [<mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:18 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1632 PROJ=63

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Media Staff](#).

### **Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1632](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** [03/15/2012 8:00 AM](#)  
**Contact Name:** [Jenny Glick](#)  
**Caller Type:** [Media](#)  
**Contact Phone Number:**  
**Cell Phone Number:** [\(b\) \(6\)](#)  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:**  
**Employer/Organization:** [CBS Radio](#)  
**Call Info:** [Entered on 2012-03-15 at 08:18:11 by Peggy Riek :](#)

[Reporter called for Carol or Bill Bagley. Re: announcement today about "pink slime."  
Questions: What is it? How do you know if your meat has "pink slime."](#)

[She would like a call asap today on her cell](#)

phone.

**Notes:** *Entered on 03/15/2012 at 08:18:10 EDT (GMT-0400) by Peggy Riek:*  
[ no Notes entered ]

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. ♦ Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. ♦ Update ticket **1632** with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1634 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:31:29 AM

---

Ok – the statement is it then

---

**From:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:55 AM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1634 PROJ=63

I was, but I don't have anything else to add.

---

**From:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:40 AM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1634 PROJ=63

Is this statement still what we are telling callers? I believe you were suggesting to be the caller on these calls last week. Or should I just respond with the statement? This one is still hanging....

All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:10 PM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1634 PROJ=63

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

### **Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1634](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** [03/15/2012 4:10 PM](#)  
**Contact Name:** [Judise Williams](#)  
**Caller Type:** [Primary Constituent](#)  
**Contact Phone Number:** (b) (6)  
**Cell Phone Number:**  
**Alt. Phone Number:**  
**Contact Email Address:** [n/a](#)  
**Employer/Organization:** [consumer](#)



**Call Info:** Entered on 2012-03-15 at 16:10:20 by Nichele Derrickson :

Re: Would like to speak with some one concerning "pink slime" added in School Lunches. Judise is a concerned parent and would like to know why is this added in meat. Why was this approved by USDA?

**Notes:** *Entered on 03/15/2012 at 16:10:20 EDT (GMT-0400) by Nichele Derrickson:*  
[ no Notes entered ]

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. ♦ Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. ♦ Update ticket **1634** with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Missoula News: Recommended article from Bonnie  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 7:46:21 PM

---

Cool, I love how they call him ornery, I knew exactly how they were talking about, I've never know his real name  
(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Missoula News: Recommended article from Bonnie

You have to know (b) (6) to appreciate this one.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)@mt.gov [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@mt.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@mt.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 3:50 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Missoula News: Recommended article from Bonnie

Bonnie (b) (6)@mt.gov has sent you the following from Missoula News:

Message: Whitey gets some press right along with pink slime

RE: article  
"etc."

<http://missoulanews.bigskypress.com/missoula/etc/Content?oid=1543841>

(To view the article, please click the above link.)

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Missoula News: Recommended article from Bonnie  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 6:25:30 PM

---

Maybe you can trade them in for Roller Derby season pass!!!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 4:12 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Missoula News: Recommended article from Bonnie

Cool thanks (b) (6) - horrible news for the Grizzlies (Robin Pflugrad the coach and the Athletic Director Jim O'Day) were fired today. I just paid for my season tickets - \$454 down the drain!!!!!!!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) @mt.gov [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@mt.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@mt.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 3:50 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Missoula News: Recommended article from Bonnie

(b) (6) @mt.gov) has sent you the following from Missoula News:

Message: Whitey gets some press right along with pink slime

RE: article  
"etc."

<http://missoulanews.bigskypress.com/missoula/etc/Content?oid=1543841>

(To view the article, please click the above link.)

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**From:** [Rogers, James - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Monthly Baseline Meeting w/OAA  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 8:18:15 AM

---

Let me know when.

Jim

James E. Rogers, Ph.D.  
Branch Chief/National Baselines Studies Director  
Microbiological Analysis and Data Branch  
Microbiology Division  
Office of Public Health Science  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service

Mailing Address

Stop 3777, PP 3, # 9-226  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Tel: 202-690-6537  
Blackberry: 202-329-2703  
Fax: 202-690-6364

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---

**From:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 8:07 AM  
**To:** Rogers, James - FSIS  
**Cc:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Monthly Baseline Meeting w/OAA

*Yep and just imagine MSP going to school lunch program after getting Ammonia treatment (if that happens)!  
For our NACMCF public meeting Gerri and I are concerned about this topic dominating the discussion and take away the focus from the actual recommendations!*

---

**From:** Rogers, James - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 8:03 AM

**To:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Cc:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Monthly Baseline Meeting w/OAA

There is pink slime in poultry too. It is called MSP.

James E. Rogers, Ph.D.  
Branch Chief  
Microbiological Analysis and Data Branch  
Microbiology Division  
Office of Public Health Science  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Tel: 202-690-6537  
Blackberry: 202-329-2703

---

**From:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 06:42 AM  
**To:** Rogers, James - FSIS  
**Cc:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Monthly Baseline Meeting w/OAA

*That is a good thing!*  
*Ground poultry issues needed to be briefed to OAA in-depth so they can work with policy proactively.*  
*I will be interested in hearing the discussions. Also include Gerri in the discussion from NACMCF view point (right now the focus is on pink slime laer it may be ground products!!)*  
*Also, many thanks for acting for me yesterday!*

---

**From:** Rogers, James - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 7:38 AM  
**To:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Monthly Baseline Meeting w/OAA

Actually it did not happen. We spent almost 1.5 hours on the ground poultry baseline instead.

James E. Rogers, Ph.D.  
Branch Chief  
Microbiological Analysis and Data Branch  
Microbiology Division  
Office of Public Health Science  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service

Tel: 202-690-6537

Blackberry: 202-329-2703

---

**From:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 06:29 AM  
**To:** Rogers, James - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Monthly Baseline Meeting w/OAA

*Hi Jim*

*I am sure this meeting went well!*

*Please brief me on the outcome at the earliest possible.*

*Thx*

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 4:54 PM

**To:** (b) (6)

- FSIS

**Subject:** Monthly Baseline Meeting w/OAA

**When:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:00 AM-11:00 AM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** 341-E

Please note the call-in number and access code as follows:

**Phone:**

**Access Code:**

The agenda will be provided before the meeting.

(b) (6), Program Analyst

Microbiological Analysis and Data Branch

Microbiology Division

USDA/OPHS/FSIS

Stop 3777, PP3, Room 9-227B

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington DC, 20250

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: 202-690-6364

(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**Subject:** Re: more info  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:47:02 PM

---

I've got it and will send to aaron  
On way back to office  
Making copies of my resume

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 01:45 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: more info

(b) (6) at AMI could probably do it. Want me to contact her?

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:38 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** FW: more info

Guys do either of you have a contact at BPI or AMI that can get us a picture of what lftb actually looks like? WaPo is going to run a story saying that the pink slime thing is false.

---

**From:** Elizabeth Flock [<mailto:Elizabeth.Flock@washingtonpost.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:36 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: more info

Hi Aaron. These links don't address the misleading photo of pink slime, which is actually showing Advanced Meat Recovery in chicken. Do you have anything that addresses this?



---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC [mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:29 PM  
**To:** Elizabeth Flock  
**Subject:** more info

Elizabeth – this should help. The folks at AMI of Nat. Meat assoc should have a picture. But let me know if I can help dig up anything else.

This more in-depth story helps explain what this is

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/beef-products-inc-gets-support-from-food-safety-leaders/>

<http://www.meatami.com/ht/a/GetDocumentAction/i/76184>

Some of these external sources may be able to provide more info.

Dr. (b) (6) (formally of Jack in the Box - (b) (6))  
Dr. (b) (6) (Iowa State University) - (b) (6)  
(b) (6) (STOP Foodborn Illness) - (b) (6)  
(b) (6) (formally of National Consumer League) - (b) (6)  
Dr. (b) (6) (Kansas State University) - (b) (6)  
Dr. (b) (6) (Texas A&M University) - (b) (6)  
(b) (6) (National Meat Association) - (b) (6)  
(b) (6) (Food Safety Lawyer) - (b) (6)

### **Aaron Lavallee**

Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.720.6959  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov)  
<http://www.usda.gov>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: More.....pink slime.  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:20:42 PM

---

Hi (b) (6)

I agree!

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:18 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** More.....pink slime.

(b) (6)

We have a bundle of new similar pink slime e-mails. I'm thinking we could again package these in a single folder and have the CCOs assist with a mail merge, rather than creating multiple folders for multiple responses. All would be FI30s.

Let me know your thoughts – thanks,

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S

Washington, D.C. 20250

Office: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: MTO5  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 12:15:51 PM

---

Yep

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Device.....

(b) (6), Investigator  
U.S. Dept of Agriculture - FSIS  
Office of Program Evaluation,  
Enforcement and Review  
Compliance & Investigations Division  
155 E. Columbus Street  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
(b) (6) Office  
(b) (6) Blackberry  
614-833-9901 Fax  
email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 11:06 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: MTO5

Really!!??? That means I have a present! Lol I'll be up in the morning before I go over to the health conference.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 12:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: MTO5

Last May, no biggie, I just said heck with it and came to the office - which is a good thing since my new laptop is here, our SHEDDER is here, and you have a box from (b) (6)

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Device.....

(b) (6), Investigator  
U.S. Dept of Agriculture - FSIS  
Office of Program Evaluation,  
Enforcement and Review  
Compliance & Investigations Division  
155 E. Columbus Street  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
(b) (6) Office  
(b) (6) Blackberry  
614-833-9901 Fax

email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 11:02 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: MTO5

Oh wow! That was months ago..... you could probably take another one... it's been awhile.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 11:04 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: MTO5

What are you doing taking a sample three blocks from my apartment (Holly Hill Farms in Reynoldsburg)?!?!? LOL

Nice people, I will probably buy my meat from them from now on - since there's no PINK SLIME!!!

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Device.....

(b) (6), Investigator  
U.S. Dept of Agriculture - FSIS  
Office of Program Evaluation,  
Enforcement and Review  
Compliance & Investigations Division  
155 E. Columbus Street  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
(b) (6) Office  
(b) (6) Blackberry  
614-833-9901 Fax  
email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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**From:** (b) (6) (HRSA)  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: My Officer's CV  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:46:21 PM

---

LOL! How to cook a turkey was not in any of my MPH courses ☺ I would tell them to deep fry the turkey outside. Every year someone burns their house down by deep frying the turkey inside the house. Yes, please tell me some stories when we get to go out for lunch/dinner!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:43 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (HRSA)  
**Subject:** RE: My Officer's CV

He gets the pleasure of working on Thanksgiving Day helping poor new cooks learn how to cook a Turkey. Remind me to tell you some HOTLINE stories when you are down in the dumps. You will laugh your socks off. We actually keep records on what people call about. It is hilarious.

---

**From:** (b) (6) (HRSA) [mailto:(b) (6)@hrsa.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: My Officer's CV

LOL. Poor guy. I can't imagine speaking all day about Pink Slime. The TV news shows talk about this every day. I am on the treadmill while the news is on a few of the TV sets. I would probably throw my plastic water bottle at the TV screen in the gym if I were in his shoes. I will keep my eyes out for other HRSA jobs for Israel.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:11 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (HRSA)  
**Subject:** RE: My Officer's CV

Yeh,  
that is why he wants to leave.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) (HRSA) [mailto:(b) (6)@hrsa.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:10 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: My Officer's CV

Hey (b) (6)

Sorry, I got caught up in another staff meeting. I'm sure Israel would make a great Project Officer. I don't think I could handle meat complaints all day. Plus Israel must really hate hearing the phrase "pink slime" LOL. Not exactly a good term for a "food product". Needs better marketing ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:03 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (HRSA)  
**Subject:** RE: My Officer's CV

Hope HRSA can pick (b) (6) up. He is a good officer just burned out on the USDA HotLine listening to meat complaints all day.

---

**From:** (b) (6) (HRSA) [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@hrsa.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@hrsa.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:01 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: My Officer's CV

(b) (6) forwarded it to me this morning. I forgot to CC you. I will send you a copy now.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:00 PM  
**To:** Reed, Daniel (HRSA)  
**Subject:** My Officer's CV

(b) (6)

Here is the CV for the officer I was talking to you about the other day. He used to be the IT guy down in DCP many years ago. He is ready for a move from USDA and has no grant training. Thanks for looking at his CV.

*Thanks,*

(b) (6)

CAPT (b) (6)  
Commissioned Corps Program Management  
USDA/FSIS Agency Liaison  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Room 2-L156  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(b) (6) (Phone)  
(b) (6) (Cell)  
(301) 504-5914 (Fax)  
(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: NACMCF Draft Meeting Release  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:12:52 AM

---

Great, Thanks Carol.

I'll make the edits, per your comments, and include some language regarding the subgroup's activity leading up to this meeting. I'll have the revised version back to you as soon as I can.

Thanks,  
Bill

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:03 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: NACMCF Draft Meeting Release

Comments are attached. Please address them and resend to me for clearance. Most importantly, I think NACMCF's subgroups have been meeting to talk about this, and this is a time when the entire group meets to report out, correct? I want to be really clear in this release that this has been part of a process, otherwise, everyone (including OC and OSEC) are going to think this is a reaction to the pink slime stories. Please revise and send back to me.

Thanks,  
***Carol Blake***  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 9:39 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** NACMCF Draft Meeting Release



Good Morning Carol!

Please find attached a draft of the NACMCF Meeting Release. Please let me know if there are any edits or changes.

Thanks,  
Bill

Bill Bagley  
Public Affairs Specialist  
USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Desk: (202) 720-0286  
bb: (202) 731-2152

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: NACMCF Talking Points 3-28-2012  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 4:03:40 PM

---

I would like to put the last sentence you added as the first talking point and then drop the section on LFTB.

*Marty*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 4:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** NACMCF Talking Points 3-28-2012

All:

Nikki (LSP Chief of Staff) provided some edits and through Gerri, FSIS Public Affairs, suggested that we nip the LFTB (aka pink slime) issue in the bud by stating that the meeting is *not* a discussion about LFTB. I included a statement at the end of the LFTB section. Please review to make sure it is appropriate.


(b) (6)

(b) (6), Ph.D.

Livestock and Meat Marketing Specialist  
USDA / AMS / LS / Standardization Division  
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Fax: (202) 720-1112  
E-mail: (b) (6)@ams.usda.gov

[www.greening.usda.gov](http://www.greening.usda.gov)

 Do you really need to print this e-mail?

**From:** [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: NACMCF Talking Points 3-28-2012  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 7:47:07 PM

---

I certainly agree.

Uday Dessai

202 257 2923

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 05:51 PM  
**To:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: NACMCF Talking Points 3-28-2012

I still think they may want to condense. I have asked Kerry to tie it all together at end and make a conclusion

---

**From:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 6:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: NACMCF Talking Points 3-28-2012

Hi Kerry and Gerri

The following bullet looks good to me – very precise and upfront (second point as laid out).

- NACMCF's current charge does not include a review of the inclusion of Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) into USDA's National School Lunch Program (NSLP) ground beef items. This issue will not be discussed during this teleconference. (This is good and precise)

The other bullets also are reasonable.

Thx

Uday

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 5:44 PM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; (b) (6) - AMS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: NACMCF Talking Points 3-28-2012

I incorporated (b) (6) suggestion.

(b) (6), Ph.D.  
Livestock and Meat Marketing Specialist  
[USDA / AMS / LS / Standardization Division](#)

Phone: (b) (6)

[www.greening.usda.gov](http://www.greening.usda.gov)

 Do you really need to print this e-mail?

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 4:13 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - AMS

**Subject:** RE: NACMCF Talking Points 3-28-2012

Hi (b) (6)

The full name of the committee needs correction to National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods. However, we will have defined it already so using just NACMCF will work.

Anyway you can make this more concise will be good.

I can't see the new LTTB comment but that sounds good.

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science  
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-6600  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 4:02 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - AMS

**Subject:** NACMCF Talking Points 3-28-2012

All:

Nikki (LSP Chief of Staff) provided some edits and through Gerri, FSIS Public Affairs, suggested that we nip the LFTB (aka pink slime) issue in the bud by stating that the meeting is *not* a discussion about LFTB. I included a statement at the end of the LFTB section. Please review to make sure it is appropriate.


(b) (6)

(b) (6), Ph.D.

Livestock and Meat Marketing Specialist  
USDA / AMS / LS / Standardization Division  
1400 Independence Ave., SW, Rm 2607-S  
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Direct line: (b) (6)  
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[www.greening.usda.gov](http://www.greening.usda.gov)

 Do you really need to print this e-mail?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: NACMCF  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2012 12:04:54 PM

---

I'm at my desk and can chat now if that's convenient.

(b) (6) is my desk.

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 12:04 PM  
**To:** Bagley, William - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: NACMCF

Hi Bill-

Wow, pink slime.....I can give you a call. I am working off-site today. What is the best number to reach you at. Do you want me to phone now?

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science  
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-6600  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Bagley, William - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 12:02 PM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: NACMCF

Hi Gerri,

Thanks for responding! I just had a couple of quick questions regarding the pink slime issue since this meeting's going to address the National School Lunch program. I wasn't sure if there were any specifics about the microbiological testing/methodology that would be directly addressing this issue. If you have a minute to chat, it'd be much appreciated! Thanks!

Bill

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 11:56 AM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: NACMCF

Hi Rachel-

Thanks to all and okay, will do.

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science  
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-6600  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 11:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Cc:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: NACMCF

Hi Bill—This has cleared OA and OFS, so it's getting ready to go to OFR. I think Carol Blake is ok with everything. Gerri—Maybe you can respond to Bill? I'm going to go ahead and get it moving to OFR.

Thanks, Rachel

---

**From:** Bagley, William - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 4:04 PM  
**To:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** NACMCF

Good Afternoon!

I noticed in this meeting announcement that there was a reference to microbiological testing for items in the National School Lunch Program. I wanted to see if you could possibly shed any more light onto this issue and what's going to happen at NACMCF?

Thanks!  
Bill

Bill Bagley  
Public Affairs Specialist  
USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Congressional and Public Affairs

1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Desk: (202) 720-0286  
bb: (b) (6)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Nat'l School Lunch Program  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:20:43 AM

---

OK. Thanks.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 07:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Nat'l School Lunch Program

We still aren't doing any school lunch program products at 8999. There really hasn't been much of an uproar about the ammoniated stuff, yet...

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:47 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Nat'l School Lunch Program

Hi (b) (6) With all the talk about pink slime lately, questions about Nat'l School Lunch Programs have come up. Does Est. 8999 produce raw beef for the Nat'l School Lunch Program? Or is the answer the same as it was back in 2007?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 05, 2007 10:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: FY06 AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program - Estimate of Inspector Hours

This took awhile since I've been having computers problems. The product is bulk ground beef in chubs.

(b) (4)  
The USDA approval for the label is: 2466973 and the CN approval# is 064740 (8/24/05).

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 31, 2007 3:31 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: FY06 AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program - Estimate of Inspector Hours

Hi (b) (6) I need some more specific information on this:

What is the product that they produce that are considered CN labeled?

What is the volume of these products (rough estimate)?

How often do they produce these (rough estimate—hours per day, days per week, weeks per month or something like that)?

Thanks much!

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 15, 2007 9:25 AM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: FY06 AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program - Estimate of Inspector Hours

8999 does one product with CNS labeling, which I cover. They don't do anything specifically for the National School lunch program, so they don't have a Grader here.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 14, 2007 2:37 PM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: FY06 AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program - Estimate of Inspector Hours

Hi (b) (6) Here's an old issue that came up again. Is 8999's involvement with Child Nutrition labeling, or National School Lunch Program, or both? In either case, how is it covered by inspection? Do you cover it or is there someone else like a USDA grader that comes in when they produce this?

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 12, 2005 11:11 AM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: FY06 AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program - Estimate of Inspector Hours

It just was re-added to the TQC after a long absence. I'm going to GUESS 2 hrs / month.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Thursday, October 06, 2005 4:35 PM

**To:** (b) (6)

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov);

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: FY06 AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program - Estimate of Inspector Hours  
**Importance:** High

Hello all IICs. Please see the following e-mail and reply to me telling me whether you have a plant(s) involved in School Lunch or Child Nutrition Program and if so, an estimate of the number of hours designated as service to this program. If you have no school lunch or Child nutrition program, please reply to me saying such.

If you'd like more information on what I'm talking about you can look at FSIS Directives 7222.1 dated 9-9-98 and 7010.1 dated 6-12-89.

Thanks.

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** White, Craig

**Sent:** Thursday, October 06, 2005 4:08 PM

**To:** FO/DO20/Front Line Supervisors

**Subject:** FW: FY06 AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program - Estimate of Inspector Hours

**Importance:** High

Hello All;

Here's a new one. Please provide some puppy on sand paper sounding estimates per below. Please return the Base and overtime estimates to me, I will compile and forward.

Thanks.

*Craig White*

*DDM Minneapolis*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)

**Sent:** Thursday, October 06, 2005  
2:42 PM

**To:** (b) (6)

(b) (6)

and Child Nutrition Program -  
Estimate of Inspector Hours  
**Importance:** High

Everyone,

If you have inspectors in your district who will be working on the AMS School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program during FY06 under the Reimbursable Agreement that we have, I need you to provide an estimate of hours that will be worked by those inspectors while working on this program. I need you to provide an estimate of hours for Base Time and Overtime/Holidays. I need this information as soon as possible. Negative replies are required. If you have any questions, please call or email me.

Thanks,

(b) (6), *Senior Budget Analyst*

*Office of Field Operations*

*Resource Management & Planning Staff*

*Financial Management Unit*

(b) (6) *(Office)*

(202) 418-8938 (Fax)

(b) (6) [\[REDACTED\]@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Wonda Email](#)  
**To:** [Thompson, David \(DDMDO90\) - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Neighborhood gathering  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:08:31 PM

---

Thanks David sounds good to me, let me wait to hear back from (b) (6) will give him a day or two longer but this looks good to me.

Thanks  
Wonda

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2012, at 10:40 AM, "Thompson, David (DDMDO90) - FSIS"  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov> wrote:

> Here is some of the products we can get.  
> I plan to get a case of tamales for my contribution.

>  
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Martin, Bud 001 [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\) @jackson.sysco.com](#)]  
> Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:20 AM  
> To: Thompson, David (DDMDO90) - FSIS  
> Subject: RE: Neighborhood gathering

>  
> Here are my top items for tacos/fajitas.

>  
> 1647353 + 2/5LB SYS CLS CHICKEN FAJ BRST STRIP PRCK approx \$35  
box \*\*\*Top Seller\*\*\*

> 7573728 + 3/5 LB TYSON CHICKEN FAJ BRST STRIP approx \$55 box  
> 2380434 + 2/5 LB CASASOL CHICKEN FAJ BRST STRIP PRCK approx \$50

box  
> 1551928 + 2/6 LB MCCARTY /TYSON CHICKEN GROUND TACO FILLING approx \$33  
box

>  
> 7696586 + 2/5LB HORMEL BEEF GRND TACO FLLNG PRCK approx \$35  
box

>  
>  
> Bud Martin  
> Sales Support/Premium Protein  
> Sysco Jackson, LLC  
> 4400 Milwaukee Street  
> Jackson, MS 39209-2683

>  
> T 601.354.1701 (b) (6)  
> C (b) (6)  
> F 601.292.2182

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>  
> KEEP UP TO DATE WITH BEEF, PORK, SEAFOOD & POULTRY MARKETS, TRAINING AND NEWS  
> Click on link below:

> <http://mysysco/sites/BlueCube/seafood/Pages/default.aspx>

>

>

>

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>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Thompson, David (DDMDO90) - FSIS [<mailto:David.Thompson4@fsis.usda.gov>]

> Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:08 AM

> To: Martin, Bud 001

> Subject: RE: Neighborhood gathering

>

> How is your business dealing with the "pink slime" issue? Have ya'll had to make a lot of changes?

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Martin, Bud 001 [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@jackson.sysco.com](mailto:(b) (6)@jackson.sysco.com)]

> Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:02 PM

> To: Thompson, David (DDMDO90) - FSIS

> Subject: Re: Neighborhood gathering

>

> Ill put together a list of options and get to you this week. I'm traveling tomorrow but if I get a break ill shoot something over.

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: Thompson, David (DDMDO90) - FSIS <[David.Thompson4@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:David.Thompson4@fsis.usda.gov)>

> To: Martin, Bud 001

> Sent: Tue Mar 27 22:06:43 2012

> Subject: Neighborhood gathering

>

> Hey Bud, I would like to check on some chicken fajita meat and beef taco filling for a hood gathering on May 5 for about 75 people. Can you assist?

> My cell 6019279903

> Thanks

> David

> David R. Thompson DVM

> Deputy District Manager

> USDA FSIS OFO JDO

> Sent via BlackBerry

>

>

>

>

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>

>

>

>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: New fact sheet for posting: "Leftovers and Food Safety"  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:16:47 PM

---

Yep. Right now, we're getting barraged with "pink slime" calls. Whoever put out this "slime" should have to answer the callers.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: New fact sheet for posting: "Leftovers and Food Safety"

Very nice! It's great to have some outside interests to distract you from the on-the-job silliness.

(b) (6)

*Web Manager, Web Services Staff*  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Room 1150-S  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)  
Phone: 202-720-3698 | Fax: 202-690-3903

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: New fact sheet for posting: "Leftovers and Food Safety"

Great!

The symposium sessions were some of the best I remember. We had over 250 attendees, and I think it went very well despite the dummies at USG who kept fouling up our classrooms and space needs.

If you want to see the program book, I'm attaching the inside pages here. (b) (6) was a co-chair with me. I designed the book.

<< File: 2012 Seminar Program Book\_FINAL.pdf >>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: New fact sheet for posting: "Leftovers and Food Safety"

The fact sheet has been published.

(b) (6)



Web Manager, Web Services Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Room 1150-S  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov  
Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 202-690-3903

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** New fact sheet for posting: "Leftovers and Food Safety"

Dear (b) (6)

This new fact sheet, "Leftovers and Food Safety," has final clearance from FSES and CPA and is ready to post on the website. I suggest it be placed under the "Safe Food Handling" section.

Thanks!

P.S. How is (b) (6) doing?

<< File: Leftovers\_and\_Food\_Safety.pdf >> << File: Leftovers\_and\_Food\_Safety.doc >>

(b) (6)

Food Safety Specialist

USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline

Room 2L254-B

5601 Sunnyside Ave.

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(b) (6)

Fax (301) 504-2092

1 (888) MPHotline or 1 (888) 674-6854

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - OES  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: New Incident from AsktheExpert  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:49:21 AM

---

Thanks...

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OES; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: New Incident from AsktheExpert

Good Morning (b) (6) FSIS is responding to the Pink Slime letters. Send it on. Thanks

(b) (6)  
**FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS**  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)  
(Desk) (b) (6)  
(Fax) 202-720-7609  
**FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS**



*TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION.*  
*BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE*  
*DR. MARTIN L. KING*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OES  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: New Incident from AsktheExpert

Good Morning:

Scroll to the bottom of this e-mail...please review the message below and let me know if you agree that this should be sent to FDA or should it be assigned to FSIS.

Thanks

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:10 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OES; (b) (6) - OES; (b) (6) - OES  
**Subject:** FW: New Incident from AsktheExpert

Not related to ARS research. I believe this should go to FDA. Thanks.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** ASK USDA [mailto:askusda@mailwc.custhelp.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:01 PM  
**To:** ARS  
**Subject:** New Incident from AsktheExpert

The following question has been received:

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @aol.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120321-000048

**Summary:** I want to know what we as consumers and Americans cab do to get pink slime banne...  
**Topic Level 1:** Food  
**Subtopic Level 2:** Food Safety Information Center  
**Date Created:** 03/21/2012 04:00 PM  
**Last Updated:** 03/21/2012 04:00 PM  
**Status:** Referred  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

##### Customer By Web Form

03/21/2012 04:00 PM

I want to know what we as consumers and Americans cab do to get pink slime banned and to have the woman who approved it investigated and charged? I am incensed at the FDA over this entire fiasco.

From: [wachholtz](#)  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Re: Northern Lights  
Date: Saturday, March 10, 2012 9:18:45 PM

---

The ABC world news with Diana Sawyer has jut been going on and on with the pink slime stuff. They just aren't giving up as they are calling and calling the government guru on the stuff and they get no answer other than it is beef. So they have two laid off or fired or retired idiots that they use as experts on the subject and call them whistle blowers.

Was nice here today got up to 68 and no wind this afternoon.. I guess they have closed off I-10 the last two days between Arizona and New Mexico on account of dust storms. There is a guy here in the park that was sad your team lost last night. His coach even has the lite blue color as a accent color. The jayhawk is on his license plates for car and motor home. He was a coach for wrestling and football at a high school in Kansas. He is worried about Missouri winning it all. So how was Walter doing??? Sliding around on his new wood floors. The old moon is already getting smaller. Where did you get the northern light deal.

So what are you doing tomorrow, napping????

Love,  
Don

On 3/10/2012 4:48 PM, (b) (6) - FSIS wrote:

So is it going on this wonderful Saturday afternoon/evening? It is clouding over at present. The sun was out most of the day. They are predicting rain tonight and on Sunday. I called Walter today as he was worried about the pink slime nonsense going around. He said there was a story in the Omaha Herald today about school lunch programs suffering. They have been putting Partially defatted chopped beef in course ground for at least 30 years I know of. With everything now days having mechanically separated chicken in the ingredient statement now there is some nasty shit. Dixie had a flare up with her liver problem yesterday and into today. Seems after she works all week by the end of the week she is exhausted and bring on the flare up. Have a good evening love Rodney

The Northern Lights are seen in the skies near Faskusfjordur on the east coast of Iceland Thursday March 8, 2012. A solar storm shook the Earth's magnetic field early Friday, but scientists said they had no reports of any problems with electrical systems. After reports Thursday of the storm fizzling out, a surge of activity prompted space weather forecasters to issue alerts about changes in the magnetic field.



**From:** [Bob Monahan](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Nothing  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 10:20:19 AM

---

I know, Pink Slime could raise it's ugly head at any time.

On Mar 19, 2012 8:16 AM, "(b) (6) - FSIS" (b) (6) <[@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)> wrote:

Yea, I should be around – but one never knows as “Meat Never Sleeps”

---

**From:** Bob Monahan [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 9:29 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Nothing

Are you on the road tomorrow, or will you be around? Coming to visit my mom.

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Notice of Investigation 12-0040  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:11:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [ICAD-12-0040 attachment.htm](#)  
[Invest 12-0040.pdf](#)

---

Good morning,

The attached complaint originated from a citizen named (b) (6) (b) (6)@aol.com, who sent it through the OIG hotline as well as to other parties. Since a number of the "for your information" complaints originate from customers who require "extra care" you might consider having the response emailed from a member of your staff who can take the extra time to handle this customer. I suspect there will be some back and forth to explain the product's science.

Yours truly,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Internal Control and Audit Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Notice of Investigation 12-0040

Here's the response to the question raised in the complaint. Is my email response sufficient or do you need the response placed on a letterhead memo/letter? If so, to whom? Thanks.

**Response:** Lean finely textured beef (LFTB) is a meat food product whereby heat and a mechanical process are applied to meat trimmings to reduce the fat content. Because the temperature does not exceed 107° F, the proteins are not denatured during the process. The product does not appear to have been heat treated and has similar performance characteristics as meat. LFTB typically contains at least 14 percent protein, no more than 10 percent fat, and has a protein efficiency ratio of 2.5 resulting in a product that is compositionally similar to beef. Therefore, FSIS determined that LFTB may be used and labeled as beef in the formulation of ground beef and other meat food products.

Moreover, anhydrous ammonia may be applied to LFTB by a Federal establishment as a food safety intervention. Anhydrous ammonia reacts with the moisture in LFTB to form ammonium hydroxide, the active component. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) lists ammonium hydroxide as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) in Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), section 184.1139 for use in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practice ([Title 21: Food and Drugs](#)). Data showed that the use of anhydrous ammonia under these conditions of use only provided a momentary effect for the reduction of microorganisms and that there was no significant difference in appearance, texture, flavor, or overall acceptability between treated and untreated product. Therefore,

FSIS determined that the use of anhydrous ammonia to treat LFTB was consistent with FDA's definition of a processing aid in 21 CFR 101.100(a)(3)(ii)(c), i.e., substances that are added to a food for their technical or functional effect in the processing but are present in the finished food at insignificant levels and do not have any technical or functional effect in that food. FSIS applies FDA's definition of a processing aid on a case by case basis as described in the following compliance policy guide posted on the Agency's website ([http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Determination\\_of\\_Processing\\_Aids.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Determination_of_Processing_Aids.pdf)). Because processing aids are exempt from labeling ammonium hydroxide is not listed on the label.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA

Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250

Main Office -- (202) 205-0495

Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089

BlackBerry -- (b) (6) -- emergency only

Fax -- (202) 720-2025

Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 5:45 PM

**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** Notice of Investigation 12-0040

See attached,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Internal Control and Audit Division

USDA, FSIS, OPEER

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Notification of A Newly Posted askFSIS Q&A  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 5:29:55 AM

---

Yeah, it sounds like all the big suppliers are pulling out of product containing FTB. From what discussions we had last night it sounds like the Cargill Corporation is going to stop using it all together... (b) (4).  
So just think about how much that is nationwide. We were involved, slightly, on some discussions that the plant was having.

(b) (6), SCS

Cargill Regional Beef

Route 706

Wyalusing, PA 18853

Ph: 570-746-3000, Ext. (b) (6)

Fax: 570-746-1014

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:20 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Notification of A Newly Posted askFSIS Q&A

I heard about one of the issues the plant was dealing with last night. That being Wal-Mart wanting to keep the FTB (pink slime) out of their product. That could have a huge effect on the industry. Between that and the new labels on ground beef, there could be a sea change coming for the beef industry. Have a good one.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 5:22 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Notification of A Newly Posted askFSIS Q&A

No meeting on it at this time. Had a few other pressing issues we've been dealing with. We are probably going to have another meeting with the plant today, and we'll try and cover it then. Let you know the outcome when it comes about.

(b) (6), SCS

Cargill Regional Beef



Route 706

Wyalusing, PA 18853

Ph: 570-746-3000, Ext. (b) (6)

Fax: 570-746-1014

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 6:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Notification of A Newly Posted askFSIS Q&A  
**Importance:** High

Hello (b) (6) and (b) (6)

Did you guys do a weekly meeting or awareness meeting for Notice 17-12? I asked the QA Supervisor last night and he said he hadn't heard anything about it. I imagine it's the same on first shift although there is a lot more acid spray applied to products on first shift than on 2<sup>nd</sup> shift. Usually there is only one line of acid sprayed product on 2<sup>nd</sup>. The records they keep and what they check for doesn't include checks for the proper application of the acid to the product. The QA Supervisor said he'd check with (b) (6) to see if he's aware and working on it. Below is the email we received on the topic today so I thought I'd forward that to you also in case it was overlooked. I checked PHIS and didn't see any mentions in the MOI's but I didn't check weekly meetings. I'll wait to hear from you, have a good one,

(b) (6), CSI

Ps. Let me know if I can help you with this somehow from the grave yard shift.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:28 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; FSIS - All FO Field Employees; FSIS - All State Inspectors; FSIS - FO/OAA; FSIS - OIA/Headquarters; FSIS - OIA/IID/All Field Regions; FSIS - OOEET/CFL/Field; FSIS - OPEER/CID; FSIS - OPEER/FSAB/Omaha; FSIS - OPEER/ICAD; FSIS - OPHS/MD; FSIS - OPPD/IPD; FSIS - OPPD/LPDD; FSIS - OPPD/PAD; FSIS - OPPD/PDD; FSIS - OPPD/PID; FSIS - OPPD/RIMD; FSIS - Weekly Report Submissions; (b) (6)

[REDACTED]

FSIS  
**Subject:** Notification of A Newly Posted askFSIS Q&A  
**Importance:** High

\*\*\*\*\*DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS EMAIL  
NOTIFICATION\*\*\*\*\*

**Due to exigent circumstance, no pre-notification was given prior to this Q&A being posted to askFSIS.**

***Please do not respond to this email.*** If you are having a login issue with askFSIS please call 1-800-233-3935 for assistance with your askFSIS account.

**Submit any questions regarding the posting to [askFSIS](#) using the appropriate Product and Category listed below:**

**Subject: FSIS Notice 17-12 HACCP task [You can view this answer here](#)**

**Question:** Which task are IPP at veal slaughter and beef fabrication establishments to perform in response to FSIS Notice 17-12 [Verification of Antimicrobial Intervention Coverage of Carcass or Product at Veal Slaughter and Beef Fabrication Establishments](#)?

**Answer:** IPP at veal slaughter and beef fabrication establishments are to perform a directed HACCP task (Raw Intact or Raw Non-intact, as appropriate) in response to FSIS Notice 17-12. IPP are to perform this directed HACCP task no earlier than one week following the weekly meeting described in Section III.A.1. of the notice and no later than 30 days of the initial awareness meeting.

The instructions in the notice for IPP to perform their verification activity as a directed HACCP Implementation procedure was inaccurate. IPP are unable to perform their verification activity as a HACCP Implementation procedure because that procedure is not available in the task library. When performing the directed HACCP task (Raw Intact or Raw Non-intact, as appropriate) IPP are to follow the instructions for a HACCP Implementation procedure described in [FSIS PHIS Directive 5000.1, Verifying an Establishment's Food Safety System](#). IPP are to perform both components (recordkeeping review and observation) of the task.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: nutritional labeling exemption [Incident: 120315-000055]  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:18:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Just wonder how that hairy head cheese with uninspected snouts is tasting right about now. Remember what they said about the pink slime. "There's no way to make something inedible edible". There trying a new twist with the snouts. I guess it goes by what you're interpretation of inedible is. It may be a new R&D project with Leinie's Red.

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector-Relief  
Plover, WI Circuit 45-21 (Golden Sand)  
N4419 Clear Lake Road  
Medford, WI 54451-8955  
(715)965-6738



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: nutritional labeling exemption [Incident: 120315-000055]

No mostly labeling. NR appeal to south. Export signing. And none north of highway 10. Then north of 10 couple things will look at.

(b) (6) DVM  
FLS Plover Circuit  
920-257-8915  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)  
Sent from BlackBerry

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 05:46 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: nutritional labeling exemption [Incident: 120315-000055]

Let me know if you need any help.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector-Relief  
Plover, WI Circuit 45-21 (Golden Sand)  
N4419 Clear Lake Road  
Medford, WI 54451-8955

(b) (6)



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:46 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: nutritional labeling exemption [Incident: 120315-000055]

No it's spring and many fires in circuit. Just being human for a bit.

(b) (6) DVM

FLS Plover Circuit

(b) (6)

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Sent from BlackBerry

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 05:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: nutritional labeling exemption [Incident: 120315-000055]

Probably. (b) (6) gave him information on a hot slot.

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector-Relief  
Plover, WI Circuit 45-21 (Golden Sand)  
N4419 Clear Lake Road  
Medford, WI 54451-8955

(b) (6)



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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:25 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: nutritional labeling exemption [Incident: 120315-000055]

(b) (6) must still be at the Casino.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:11 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: nutritional labeling exemption [Incident: 120315-000055]

(b) (6) says he hasn't appealed the NR. Hasn't answered it either.

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector-Relief  
Plover, WI Circuit 45-21 (Golden Sand)  
N4419 Clear Lake Road  
Medford, WI 54451-8955

(b) (6)



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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:07 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: nutritional labeling exemption [Incident: 120315-000055]

I agree. We need an answer so that we can either forget it or get the other labels corrected at Abby.

I also agree with (b) (4) on the Policy Memo. How do we know it's intention if it is not stated.

I don't trust (b) (4) responses anymore.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:23 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: nutritional labeling exemption [Incident: 120315-000055]

This is what Fritz is quoting. This is why you should send the NR to (b) (4) and get a clarification so we can get this behind us.

**§ 317.400 Exemption from nutrition labeling.**

(a) The following meat or meat food products are exempt from nutrition labeling:

(3) Products that are not for sale to consumers, provided that the labels for these products bear no nutrition claims or nutrition information, **These products are for sale to consumers through the food service. My Take WTR.**

This is what I sent to Fritz yesterday and his response is below. So what is Policy Memo 90 B for? How do you know it's not intended for the consumer unless you identify the product as such. What you think. This is getting really old. Time to go to work on the water thing.

**LABELING REQUIREMENT GUIDE.**

**A. When Packaging Must Bear Required Labeling** FSIS labeling authority

is very broad, extending from the labels appearing on the food package, before they are applied to the product, to point-of-purchase materials, including promotional brochures and shelf-talkers. 48 As mentioned previously, a “label” is a display of any printing, graphics stickers, seals or other written, printed or graphic matter upon the immediate container. 49 This regulatory authority over the food label can affect the processing and manufacturing operations of food companies. Meat and poultry products that do not bear the USDA-approved label, unless expressly exempt, may not be distributed in interstate commerce.

The manner in which a meat or poultry product is packaged when shipped from an inspected establishment determines what information should appear on the label of the packaged product. The rules vary depending upon whether the product is a processed or prepared meat or poultry product, or an unprocessed meat cut, or a poultry product, and upon the type of package or container in which the product is packed and shipped.

Immediate containers (e.g., bags, cardboard cartons, tray packs, and film bags enclosing processed or prepared meat products) can be considered “protective coverings” and exempt from marking and labeling requirements if placed within a shipping container that meets all mandatory labeling requirements (product name, handling statement, legend, establishment number, net weight, ingredients statement, signature line, nutrition facts, and safe handling instructions when required). 50 This exemption does not include the mandatory identification and marking required for the inner container of the meat food product. The shipping container that contains exempt immediate containers must be marked “Packed for Institutional Use Only” or with an equivalent statement of intended limited distribution from one federal establishment to another. The unlabeled product within the shipping container may not be removed for further distribution nor displayed or offered for sale at retail.

**This labeling provides that nutritional information does not have to be printed on the shipping container. The “from one federal establishment to another” is vague but could mean from one federal establishment to another federal establishment or from one federal establishment to HRI’s. If the prepared product was from one federal establishment to another for copack for consumer sales. “The packed for Institutional use” would negate the nutritional information on the shipper. Would still be nice to know because the co-packer will need that information. For HRI’s the consumer won’t know where it came from anyway unless they get sick or bite into a big nail; God forbid.**

**50** Footnote See 9 C.F.R. §§ 301.2 and 381.1(b) (definition of “immediate container”); 9 C.F.R. § 317.2 (definition of “protective covering”); **See also Policy Memo 090B (Directive 7220.1)** and the Food Standards and Labeling Policy Book at 137 (“Protective Coverings, Poultry” entry).

**Directive 7220.1 is the interpretation of what is required to meet the intent of the regulation and basically is regulatory. It does say must be marked “Packed for Institutional Use Only” or equivalent statement. When does the government ever say must unless it is regulatory. We’re not talking HACCP here.**

My take on things and this even makes sense to me.

This is pretty much what Policy Memo 90B although 90B states, "In addition, the shipping container **must be clearly marked** "Packed for Institutional Use" or an equally descriptive statement of intended limited distribution, i.e., locations where the entire contents are consumed on the premises. Unlabeled product may not be removed from shipping containers for further distribution nor displayed or offered for sale.

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector-Relief  
Plover, WI Circuit 45-21 (Golden Sand)  
N4419 Clear Lake Road  
Medford, WI 54451-8955

(b) (6)



---

**From:** Fritz Brown [mailto:(b) (6)@abbyland.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:28 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: nutritional labeling exemption [Incident: 120315-000055]

(b) (4) here is the answer that I got the other day from askfsis about the limited distribution statement.

-Fritz

---

Fritz Brown  
QA and Food Safety Manager  
Abbyland Foods  
715-223-6386 (b) (6)

---

**From:** FSIS Labeling & Consumer Protection Staff [mailto:Labeling@custhelp.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)@abbyland.com  
**Subject:** nutritional labeling exemption [Incident: 120315-000055]

Recently you requested personal assistance from our on-line support center. Below is a summary of your request and our response.

Thank you for allowing us to be of service to you.

To update this question by email, please reply to this message. Because your reply will be automatically processed, you **MUST** enter your reply in the space below. Text entered into any other

part of this message will be discarded.

[==> Please enter your reply below this line <==]

[==> Please enter your reply above this line <==]

[To access your question from our support site, click here.](#)

**Subject**

nutritional labeling exemption

**Discussion Thread**

**Response Via Email** (b) (6)

03/15/2012 11:16 AM

No, that is not needed.

**Auto-Response**

03/15/2012 10:50 AM

Your question has been received by the Labeling and Program Delivery Division. The reference number for your question is 120315-000055. You should receive a response from us within 5 business days.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119308/username/fbrown@abbyland.com](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119308/username/fbrown@abbyland.com)

Thank you,  
LPDD Staff

**Customer By Web Form (Fritz Brown)**

03/15/2012 10:50 AM

If a product is exempt from the requirement for nutritional facts because of the intended use in institutional food service as outlined in 9cfr317.400(a)(3), am I required to place a declaration on the label such as "For Food Service Only" or "Not for retail sale"?



**From:** [Boody, Elizabeth - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [O'Drudy, Leo - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: OCR Leg Directors Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:54:17 PM

---

Thank you very much for attending the meeting, and the notes, Leo.

Elizabeth Boody  
Legislative Analyst  
Congressional and Public Affairs Office  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1180 - South Building  
Office Phone: (202) 720-6032  
Office Fax: (202) 690-0460

Blackberry: (202) 306-2507

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often

**SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature

**CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** O'Drudy, Leo - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** Boody, Elizabeth - FSIS; Gould, Christopher - FSIS; Khan, Atiya - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** OCR Leg Directors Meeting

I reported that our hearing went well and we had basically nothing else to report.

-----

The Department feels the agencies have prepared well for the approps hearings. The only unexpected element so far was that there is already a lot of Farm Bill talk in the approps hearings. The Secretary will be up at the Senate approps hearing on the 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> –the Senate doesn't do individual agencies (within a Department).

The FDA is going to issue a new directive on animal antibiotics – rolling it out this Friday – that antibiotics have to get a veterinarian prescription. They did a guidance last year to the same effect but that was non-binding, and a few months back requested the withdrawal of antibiotics important to human health.

(b) (6) asked (b) (6) of AMS) what's happening on the "pink slime" issue. (b) (6) responded that a Decision Memo is on its way to the Secretary, already in the OES tracking system but is not yet out of AMS.

Leo K. O'Drudy, III

Legislative Analyst

FSIS Congressional and Public Affairs Office

US Department of Agriculture

Room 1180 South Building

1400 Independence Avenue SW

Washington DC 20250

202-720-0283

202-690-0460 fax

[leo.o'drudy@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:leo.o'drudy@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Boody, Elizabeth - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [O'Drudy, Leo - FSIS](#); [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#); [Khan, Atiya - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OCR Leg Directors Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:53:14 AM

---

The second item about antibiotics has to do with the fact that there is a loophole for buying antibiotics for agricultural use. At the “irresponsible use of antibiotics” meeting on the Hill last week, for example, Dr. (b) (6) said that anyone can buy a 10, 20, or even 50 lb bag of tetracycline at a feed store in MD. They just need money. No ID, no prescription.

Elizabeth Boody  
Legislative Analyst  
Congressional and Public Affairs Office  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1180 - South Building  
Office Phone: (202) 720-6032  
Office Fax: (202) 690-0460

Blackberry: (202) 306-2507

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often

**SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature

**CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ODA Meat Inspection Report 0021 Old Strasburg Provision District 6  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:26:42 PM

---

I'm pretty sure you're right about that document but when (b) (6) was still here he told Dr. (b) (6) that we shouldn't go by that because there really wasn't any validity to it. It 'may' indicate but there are too many other variables that could also promote high counts.

that's how I recall it anyway.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:36 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: ODA Meat Inspection Report 0021 Old Strasburg Provision District 6

My memory could be misleading me, but it seems we use to have a document that gave some guidelines on bacterial loads, and above a certain level it was an indication the product may have been mishandled in some manner, or was being produced in a potentially insanitary condition or manner. That's all. Maybe some day I can locate that document.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@agri.ohio.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:28 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ODA Meat Inspection Report 0021 Old Strasburg Provision District 6

seriously, what will you do with the results of a plate count? No number has been established to correlate safe and not safe, ask a food microbiologist. It's raw ground beef, you're going to get numbers, if you don't have a plan for what you're going to do with those numbers, then why get them in the first place? It's sort of like what we've got going on right now with the 'pink slime' propaganda that's out there. It looks bad, it sounds bad but it's just a different way to get to the same result and since people aren't used to it, it sounds worse than it really is.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 7:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: ODA Meat Inspection Report 0021 Old Strasburg Provision District 6

I thought I emailed (b) (6), but apparently TK has assumed your body.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@agri.ohio.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:29 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: ODA Meat Inspection Report 0021 Old Strasburg Provision District 6

No plate count...what's a plate count going to tell you, there's microbial organisms present? I'd expect that. Sorry I didn't get you called back, I was on phone from the time I left home until 930 (3 hours) before I even talked with Dr. (b) (6). I'll call you next week sometime

(b) (6)

Agriculture Inspection Manager  
ODA-Division of Meat Inspection

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]

Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 7:44 AM

To: (b) (6)

Subject: FW: ODA Meat Inspection Report 0021 Old Strasburg Provision District 6

This is all we get with "organoleptic" test? No plate count?

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@agri.ohio.gov]

Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 7:35 AM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: ODA Meat Inspection Report 0021 Old Strasburg Provision District 6

This email has a report attached in MS Access Snapshot format.

This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: official statement  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:13:48 AM

---

Just clarified that it is an external list serve of bloggers – Tom Philpott, Naomi Starkmen, the Atlantic, Grist, Civil Eats, etc.

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:53 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: official statement

And the hits keep coming...

FYI, our two documents are with FSIS OA and OFS for review and clearance. Best ~ Brian

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:47 AM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: official statement

FYI

---

**From:** Kane, Deborah - FNS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:30 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: official statement

I picked it up from an advocacy list serve.

**Deborah J. Kane**

National Director, USDA Farm to School Program

(c)(b) (6)

Helping schools find and procure regionally produced food is a key component of the USDA [Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food](#) (KYF) initiative. Check out the new KYF [Compass](#) to learn more!

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: official statement  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:01:34 AM

---

Today's Onion and News You Can Use:

## LSD Could Be Viable Alcoholism Treatment

MARCH 13, 2012 | [ISSUE 48•11](#)

A comprehensive analysis of LSD studies conducted in the 1960s and '70s found that alcoholics were less likely to relapse if they took LSD under the controlled supervision of a psychiatrist. What do *you* think?



No thanks. My doors of perception are blocked with empties, and they're going to stay that way.

Jamie Harper  
General Helper



Yeah, I can see how you'd be less prone to drink when your bottle of vodka screams at you to rip off its head.

Liz Murray  
Public-Address Servicer



Man, my psychiatrist sucks.

Joe Pearson

Dishwasher

More American Voices

[« Ground Beef Contains Pink Slime](#)

# # #

**Brian K. Mabry**

***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891

tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460

[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)

[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:58 AM

**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: official statement

Sweet. [When do bars open?](#)

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:47 AM

**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: official statement

FYI

---

**From:** Kane, Deborah - FNS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:30 AM

**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC

**Subject:** RE: official statement

I picked it up from an advocacy list serve.



**Deborah J. Kane**

National Director, USDA Farm to School Program

(c) 503.260.1717

Helping schools find and procure regionally produced food is a key component of the USDA [Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food](#) (KYF) initiative. Check out the new KYF [Compass](#) to learn more!

---

**From:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:25 AM

**To:** Kane, Deborah - FNS

**Subject:** RE: official statement

This is not good – this information should not be out there yet. Please encourage FNS to not be discussing this is still with OSEC. And there are folks in FNS who don't agree with OSEC on this and will leak this.

That said I will send you something as soon as I have it.

---

**From:** Kane, Deborah - FNS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:58 AM

**To:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC; Alexander, Bruce - FNS

**Subject:** official statement

I'm hearing through the grapevine that USDA is releasing an official statement on, forgive the shorthand, pink slime tomorrow. True? And if so, may I get an advanced copy please.

**Deborah J. Kane**

National Director, USDA Farm to School Program

(c) 503.260.1717

Helping schools find and procure regionally produced food is a key component of the USDA [Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food](#) (KYF) initiative. Check out the new KYF [Compass](#) to learn more!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 4:05:07 PM

---

That's right.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, OFO

CSI, IIC

Stratford, Texas

office: (b) (6)

cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 3:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton

Sounds like it's just an "advanced meat recovery"? Not that AMR is my favorite thing but it's not exactly pink slime.

(b) (6), CSI

Durant, Oklahoma

(b) (6) (Cell)

(580)924-2414 Ext. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 3:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton

I know of the BPI in Garden City. It's adjacent to the beef plant there. I haven't heard anything from anyone in Amarillo. I'll email one of my buds down there and see what he has to say. Most likely all BPI's customers are running scared at this time due to all the

media hype. What the media fails to report is that the product isn't by any means new, and that it's completely safe. News Channel 10 in Amarillo wanted to do an interview with Brown's plant manager two weeks ago. They don't produce LFTB and are unfamiliar with the process, so they declined. The news did report that night that the only local retail store in our area that uses LFTB in their ground beef products is Wal-Mart.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, OFO

CSI, IIC

Stratford, Texas

office: (b) (6)

cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:46 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton

It's BPI, Beef Products Inc.

(b) (6), CSI

Durant, Oklahoma

(b) (6) (Cell)

(580)924-2414 Ext. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton

What they are referring to as pink slime has been known by the industry for years as Lean Finely Textured Beef. It's produced by some sophisticated mechanical means that separates knife trimmings into lean beef. From what I'm told...fat and connective tissue are removed and the resulting lean beef product is treated with ammonium phosphate as an anti microbial intervention. I've never seen the process or worked any place where they produce such a product. For all intents and purposes, it sounds about like the same process

the poultry folks use to harvest poultry meat from carcasses. LFTB has been around for years.

I don't know anything about the plants that closed. Who are they?

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, OFO

CSI, IIC

Stratford, Texas

office: (b) (6)

cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton

What do you know about Pink Slime Beef and the three plants that shut down???

(b) (6), CSI

Durant, Oklahoma

(b) (6) (Cell)

(580)924-2414 Ext. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:35 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton

I agree about not wanting to foot the bill. Which plant is (b) (6) stationed at now? I know you said they added some plants to his assignment, but I'm confused about his duty station.

As for the vacation...it was one of my best. I totally enjoyed every minute, and as you can guess...the rain was a novelty. My brother (b) (6) and I went spotlighting down on Little Frog Bayou during the flash flood. The swiftness of the water was awesome!

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, OFO

CSI, IIC

Stratford, Texas

office: (b) (6)

cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:14 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton

It's (b) (6) old job. I've thought about applying but I'm afraid they'll stick me in Lawton (and Davis) for who knows how long. I don't want to move there so, I'll be stuck footing the bill any time I spend there. What do you think?

Sounds like the vacation could have been a little better.

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector

Durant, Oklahoma

(b) (6) - Cell

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 9:24 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Lawton

Hey (b) (6) I had a great vacation in the great state of Arkansas. A tornado touched down about 12-15 miles from Mom's place, had a flash flood and didn't see the sun for three days!

Who's relief job vacancy did they announce in Lawton? Are you going to apply?

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, OFO

CSI, IIC

Stratford, Texas

office: (b) (6)

cell (b) (6)

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

**From:** [Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC](#)  
**To:** [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) Inquiry  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:49:05 AM

---

The group agreement was to send them all through AMS for the same form letter response so these letters didn't get lost in the regular process. But I'll check again.

**Ashlee Nicole Johnson**

Office of Congressional Relations

U.S. Department of Agriculture

(202) 720-2413

[Ashlee.Johnson@osec.usda.gov](mailto:Ashlee.Johnson@osec.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:43 AM  
**To:** Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Subject:** RE: Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) Inquiry

Wow, this letter is so unbelievably off-topic. I mean, even opponents of pink slime are smart enough to only hint at food safety, since they know that's not really the issue with this stuff. Ah, well. Are you sending these thing to OES for proper vetting and response?

Christopher Gould  
Congressional & Public Affairs Office  
USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service  
202-690-4546 (desk)  
202-365-0186 (cell)  
202-720-5704 (fax)

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:39 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Gould, Christopher - FSIS; Carter, Scott - FNS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Lavalley, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** FW: Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) Inquiry

New LFTB letter from Rep. Marcia Fudge.

**Ashlee Nicole Johnson**

Office of Congressional Relations  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
(202) 720-2413  
[Ashlee.Johnson@osec.usda.gov](mailto:Ashlee.Johnson@osec.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@mail.house.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:42 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) Inquiry

Ashlee,

I wanted to share with you a letter that Rep. Fudge sent this week to Secretary Vilsack regarding food safety. This issue is going to be one of her priorities as Ranking Member of the Department Operations, Oversight, and Credit Subcommittee. I hope that we can work closely on these issues going forward and find ways to collaborate. Please let me know if you have any thoughts or questions.

Best,

(b) (6)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lean Finely Textured Beef "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:49:55 AM

---

Hi (b) (6)

If you would be so kind, please send me the control number.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lean Finely Textured Beef "Pink Slime"

Shall do – am just about to load it to ECM.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW. • Room 1166 • Washington D.C. 20250  
(b) (6) (W) • (202) 720-7609 (F) • (b) (6) (C)  
e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe.** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lean Finely Textured Beef "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 10:03:14 AM

---

Reviewing – thanks very much!

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 10:03 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lean Finely Textured Beef "Pink Slime"

This should be with you now.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW. • Room 1166 • Washington D.C. 20250  
(b) (6) (W) • (202) 720-7609 (F) • (b) (6) (C)  
e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe. **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lean Finely Textured Beef "Pink Slime"

Great – thanks,

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lean Finely Textured Beef "Pink Slime"

Shall do – am just about to load it to ECM.

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW. • Room 1166 • Washington D.C. 20250  
(b) (6) (W) • (202) 720-7609 (F) • (b) (6) (C)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe. **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Lean Finely Textured Beef "Pink Slime"  
**Importance:** High

Good Morning (b) (6)

I will be drafting a letter for the Secretary's signature regarding pink slime. I was informed

that you are working on a draft response going to Sen. Grassley. Please forward me a copy of your draft response so I can pull language from it. I greatly appreciate your assistance!

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) Issues Analyst

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (202) 720-7609*

*Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)*

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** NACMPI  
**Subject:** RE: Lean finely textured beef aka "Pink Slime" and the Future  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:08:18 AM

---

Got it – thanks,

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** NACMPI  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:53 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Lean finely textured beef aka "Pink Slime" and the Future

Another letter for your group.  
I have acknowledged receipt.

---

**From:** (b) (6) @gmail.com [mailto:(b) (6) @gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Eric  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:51 PM  
**To:** FSIS Labeling; NACMPI; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; [consumer@fda.gov](mailto:consumer@fda.gov); [premarkt@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:premarkt@fda.hhs.gov); [FDBinfo@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:FDBinfo@cdph.ca.gov)  
**Subject:** Lean finely textured beef aka "Pink Slime" and the Future

To whom it may concern:

Today I read that Safeway had decided to stop selling meat that contained "pink slime" which is great news considering that many consumers were going to stop buy their meat because of it.

I hope that you realize that when American's have the real information about what goes into their food they respond in a reasonable and rational way. I am concerned that the government agencies that have been established to protect and inform consumers about what is going into the food supply has become a spokesman for food companies. The response to consumer concern from the USDA has been simply to say "its safe." Whether "pink slim" is safe to ingest or not the fact is that the majority of people would chose not to eat meat that has been treated with ammonia. Yet our government mandated food labels print the

euphemism "Lean finely textured beef" which is tells the consumer nothing about the fact that it contains meat treated with ammonia.

In the future it would be appreciated if the FDA and USDA would take a more common sense approach to the names they give processed food by saying what is actually in them.

The general guideline of these agencies should be to inform the public about what is going into their food whether it is ammonia, or GMO or some other product that they public might have concerns about. Whether or not a food product is safe is irrelevant to the fact that giving pink slime the name lean finely textured beef does more to protect the bottom line of large food producers than giving the public the information they need to make informed decisions about the food they purchase.

I am not saying arguing that selling lean finely textured beef should be illegal but that the consumers need to be empowered to make the decision for themselves if they want to buy food products that contain ammonia or other know cleaning chemicals.

Sincerely,

Eric Zandona

(b) (6).

San Francisco, CA 94110

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lean, Fine Textured Beef (Pink Slime)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:07:10 AM

---

Calm down Sista Girl ☺ go to your Zen place. That Ames

(b) (6), Food Technologist  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD  
Stop Code 3784 Patriot Plaza III, 8-161A  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202)245-4792 or (202) 245-4795  
Email: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:06 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lean, Fine Textured Beef (Pink Slime)

You are shouting this morning. Now I have a headache

(b) (6)  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:05 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lean, Fine Textured Beef (Pink Slime)

THEY WANT TO MAKE A CLAIM ABOUT ANYTHING THEY THINK WILL GET MORE SALES!!! ☹

(b) (6), Food Technologist  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD  
Stop Code 3784 Patriot Plaza III, 8-161A  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
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---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:59 AM  
**To:** Ames Perry; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** suzie.hurtado@vantagefoods.net; Tu-Anh Pham; susang@primelabel.com  
**Subject:** RE: Lean, Fine Textured Beef (Pink Slime)

Ames,

No, we are not permitting claims at this time.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W. – Stop 5273  
Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor – Cubicle 161A  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (301) 504-0879  
Fax: (202) 245-4792

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---

**From:** Ames Perry [mailto:(b) (6)@primelabel.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:58 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6)@vantagefoods.net; Tu-Anh Pham; (b) (6)@primelabel.com  
**Subject:** Lean, Fine Textured Beef (Pink Slime)

Dear Labeling Staff,

Are you allowing “No LFTB” claims on labels of ground beef? If so how would it need to be stated? What type of information/documentation would the Establishment need to provide to support this claim?

I appreciate your help in this matter.

Ames Perry  
Prime Label Consultants  
(202)546.3333 ext. (b) (6)



**From:** [Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC](#)  
**To:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Ramos, Adela - OSEC](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - OSEC](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Ronholm, Brian - OSEC](#)  
**Cc:** [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#); [Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS](#); [Almanza, Al - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from FMI and request for a meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:18:54 PM

---

Yup. Got it. I don't mind taking the meeting with Hillary. The tone is a little surprising, but Hillary is very reasonable and solid. We can set up whatever approach makes sense. Copying OA.

Elisabeth Hagen, M.D.  
Under Secretary, Food Safety  
USDA  
202-720-0350

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:15 PM  
**To:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC; [\(b\) \(6\) - OSEC](#); Blake, Carol - FSIS; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC  
**Cc:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC  
**Subject:** Fw: Letter from FMI and request for a meeting

See below

---

**From:** Hilary S. Thesmar (FMI) [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fmi.org](mailto:(b) (6)@fmi.org)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:05 PM  
**To:** 'elisabeth.hagen@usda.gov' <elisabeth.hagen@usda.gov>  
**Cc:** 'aaron.lavallee@usda.gov' <aaron.lavallee@usda.gov>; Blake, Carol - FSIS; West, Walinda - FSIS; [\(b\) \(6\) - OSEC](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - OSEC](#); [\(b\) \(6\) \(FMI\) \(b\) \(6\)@fmi.org](#)>  
**Subject:** Letter from FMI and request for a meeting

Dr. Elisabeth Hagen  
Under Secretary for Food Safety  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dear Dr. Hagen,

As the trade association for America's supermarkets and grocery stores, Food Marketing Institute (FMI) seeks to be a resource to our members when issues arise, such as the recent consumer concern regarding lean finely textured beef (LFTB) – characterized in the media as “pink slime.” FMI and our members have come to rely upon U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) timely response in such instances to be a consumer-trusted source of information on matters pertaining to food integrity and safety.

FMI recently hosted a number of conference calls to address consumer questions that members were receiving about LFTB and a recurring theme of these calls was, “Where is USDA on this issue?” For a week, we did not have an answer to that question, with the exception of a very brief media statement that - with all due respect - fell short of addressing the magnitude of consumer concern this topic generated.

For days after the story became a consumer concern, USDA's voice was noticeably missing from this conversation. We wish to report that the agency's silence on this issue left our members scrambling for a credible voice on a rather complex subject, because the voice we had come to trust wasn't speaking.

This slow response has not been FMI's past experience of USDA and we write as concerned friends, to respectfully request a meeting where we can discuss this matter and explore ways we might be of help in your work to expedite agency responses in future instances of consumer questions about food safety, quality or integrity. We were very appreciative of the Secretary's office giving us advance warning of the FNS procurement release and announcement.

Sincerely,

Hilary Thesmar, PhD., R.D.,  
FMI, Vice President for Food Safety

Sue Borra, R.D.  
FMI, Sr. Vice President for Communications

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**From:** [Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC](#)  
**To:** [Hilary S. Thesmar \(FMI\); "elisabeth.hagen@usda.gov"](#)  
**Cc:** ["aaron.lavallee@usda.gov"; Blake, Carol - FSIS; West, Walinda - FSIS \(b\) \(6\) - OSEC; \(b\) \(6\) - OSEC; Susan T. Borra \(FMI\)](#)  
**Bcc:** [Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from FMI and request for a meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:19:13 AM

---

Hi, Hillary-

Thanks for your letter. Would be happy to meet with you to talk through this. Will ask Inga to find a time for a meeting, and will ask (b) (6) in the Secretary's office to join us. USDA's actions and responses on this issue were largely focused on the school lunch procurement issues, not on the safety profile of the product, and I think (b) (6) can provide some perspective on that.

Elisabeth Hagen, M.D.  
Under Secretary, Food Safety  
USDA  
202-720-0350

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: LFTB - Senate Ag Minority Staff  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:52:53 AM

---

Just FYI, we're shooting for 3:00PM, not 2:00PM. Sorry 'bout that

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:52 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: LFTB - Senate Ag Minority Staff

Thanks for the heads up!

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:39 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Subject:** LFTB - Senate Ag Minority Staff

Heads up to my communicators – Senate Ag Minority Staff has demanded a call today with USDA (AMS, FNS, FSIS) on the issue of “pink slime” at 2 PM today. Ashlee is coordinating, but wanted to marry the press and congressional folks up. Staff is concerned that we are killing the beef industry. FSIS is reaching out to Phil Defler to see if he can be the FSIS SME

for the call.

Chris Gould heads our Congressional staff. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 4:06:26 PM

---

Go look in the mirror tonight. LOL Just kidding. Yes you did turn out very fine Dr.

(b) (6) No complaints from here on what I was able to check out.

(b) (6)

DVM, MPH, Dipl. ACVPM

IIC, 2nd Shift, Tyson Foods Inc.

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, FSIS

Office - (b) (6)

Cell - (b) (6)

Fax - (830) 401-0529

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:50 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI

I grew up just fine eating the stuff, and look at how I turned out. I also drank raw milk and lived to tell the tale.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:42 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI

No wonder kids don't like school meals.

(b) (6)

DVM, MPH, Dipl. ACVPM

IIC, 2nd Shift, Tyson Foods Inc.

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, FSIS

Office - (b) (6)

Cell - (b) (6)

Fax - (830) 401-0529

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS

Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 10:59 AM

To: (b) (6)

- FSIS

**Subject:** FW: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI

Just sharing information. Do with it as you wish.

---

**Subject:** LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI

Please take some time to look at this if you have any questions or have been asked about LFTB (aka "Pink Slime"). Feel free to pass these links along to colleagues, establishments, friends, family, and anyone else you want to know the "truth" about this product:

AMI has put together a great list of resources to educate about LFTB, including Q&As, Fact Sheets, YouTube Videos, and interviews, and information about Ammonium Hydroxide use/safety.

<http://www.meatsafety.org/>

On their website, you'll find a link to this video "The Facts About Lean Finely Textured Beef", produced by AMI:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDpJmsKeh8&list=UUahyGGFVpVawZRgFmolyn6g&index=1&feature=plcp>

Finally you can check out this website, created by BPI, for even more information:

<http://pinkslimeisamyth.com>

(b) (6), DVM

Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian

USDA-FSIS-OFO Albany District - Buffalo Circuit

Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

*Changes come like waves in the ocean. We can either ride each wave and have some fun with it, or let it pound us into the sand. Either way, the waves keep coming!*





**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:01:17 PM

---

Thanks for sharing. I sent it on also.

Hope you are well. We have had an unseasonably warm March so far. The flowering trees and shrubs have flower buds. I will not complain one bit. Was actually warm enough, I took my boys camping this weekend. The stars through the leafless trees were spectacular on Saturday night.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:49 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI

Just thought I'd pass these sites along in case anyone was interested!

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI  
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 2:14:19 PM

---

Yum! So was that "white slime?"

(b) (6), DVM

Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian

USDA-FSIS-OFO Albany District - Buffalo Circuit

Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

*Changes come like waves in the ocean. We can either ride each wave and have some fun with it, or let it pound us into the sand. Fithet way, the waves keep coming!*

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 1:27 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI

*Well—Freezer Queen when they were here on the lake in Buffalo used to make 28 ounce entrees of chicken nuggets cooked in the oil cooker. Guess what they were made of Dr. (b) (6) Mechanically separated chicken and frozen chicken breast skin. Used to do the combos of chicken frames at Deringers's then Wally's sent to Burlington Ontario to have the chicken meat sprayed off into mechanically separated chicken!*

---

From: (b) (6) FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 1:18 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI

Yeah, it's turned into a nightmare for sure. I was totally unaware of the process, but I am glad that I have access to the resources to learn about it and then pass along my knowledge to family and friends. Hopefully the Agency can make strides to better educate the public before the next big whirlwind (hotdogs? Lunchmeats? Chicken nuggets?)

(b) (6), DVM

Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian

USDA-FSIS-OFO Albany District - Buffalo Circuit

Email: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

*Changes come like waves in the ocean. We can either ride each wave and have some fun with it, or let it pound us into the sand. Fithet way, the waves keep coming!*

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 12:35 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI

*Thanks Dr. (b) (6) I have done some research on it as of course my friends have been asking questions and supermarkets here are all now claiming they will not be using it. UGH!*

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 11:39 AM  
To: (b) (6)

- FSIS  
Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: LFTB Information from The American Meat Institute and BPI

Please take some time to look at this if you have any questions or have been asked about LTFB (aka "Pink Slime"). Feel free to pass these links along to colleagues, establishments, friends, family, and anyone else you want to know the "truth" about this product:

AMI has put together a great list of resources to educate about LTFB, including Q&As, Fact Sheets, YouTube Videos, and interviews, and information about Ammonium Hydroxide use/safety.

<http://www.meatsafety.org/>

On their website, you'll find a link to this video "The Facts About Lean Finely Textured Beef", produced by AMI:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDjPjmsKeh8&list=UUahyGGFVpVawZRgFmolyn6g&index=1&feature=plcp>

Finally you can check out this website, created by BPI, for even more information:

<http://pinkslimeisamyth.com>

(b) (6)

DVM

Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian

USDA-FSIS-OFO Albany District - Buffalo Circuit

Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

*Changes come like waves in the ocean. We can either ride each wave and have some fun with it, or let it pound us into the sand. Either way, the waves keep coming!*

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: LFTB/pink slime Hill Inquiries  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 5:32:19 PM

---

What is Chris's role in relation to Greg?

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 5:32 PM  
**To:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Cc:** Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** LFTB/pink slime Hill Inquiries

Chris,

We just got off a joint call with AMS/FNS/OC/OCR/OSEC on our favorite topic. I know you have been great about keeping Ashlee in the loop when we get inquiries, but could you now please make sure to add (b) (6) to any inquiries we get from the Hill on this subject?

Ann is point for OCR; (b) (6) is point for the policy aspects; and Aaron is point for press so, when in doubt, make sure the A Team is alerted.

Thanks ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
**Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs**  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**To:** [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: LFTB/pink slime Hill Inquiries  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:18:53 AM

---

Thanks Chris.

---

**From:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 7:04 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Cc:** Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: LFTB/pink slime Hill Inquiries

No problem - looks like we've gotten a request from CRS.

Christopher Gould  
Congressional & Public Affairs Office  
USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service  
202-690-4546  
202-365-0186 (cell)

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 04:31 PM  
**To:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Cc:** Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** LFTB/pink slime Hill Inquiries

Chris,

We just got off a joint call with AMS/FNS/OC/OCR/OSEC on our favorite topic. I know you have been great about keeping Ashlee in the loop when we get inquiries, but could you now please make sure to add (b) (6) to any inquiries we get from the Hill on this subject?

Ann is point for OCR; (b) (6) is point for the policy aspects; and Aaron is point for press so, when in doubt, make sure the A Team is alerted.

Thanks ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: liver sausage  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:20:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Elmer's glue is edible too. Elmer's snack sticks?

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector-Relief  
Plover, WI Circuit 45-21 (Golden Sand)  
N4419 Clear Lake Road  
Medford, WI 54451-8955

(b) (6)



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:33 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: liver sausage

You ever seen the stuff? Tests says safe. Look says isn't meat. Ranks up there with me with mechanically separated poultry. Looks like the combo was the end pipe to porcelain goddess.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:32 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: liver sausage

Is the pink slime with ammonia in school lunch program safe? Sure ain't meat.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector-Relief  
Plover, WI Circuit 45-21 (Golden Sand)  
N4419 Clear Lake Road  
Medford, WI 54451-8955

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: logged for special wah  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:56:35 AM

---

Yeah, that is not unusual. Be glad the "Pink Slime" didn't hit the news again or you would have a crap load of that complaint too. I've done enough of these regs to not be shocked by any comment, no matter how STUPID.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: logged for special wah

There are some very nasty comments. I wonder why they bother to comment.

(b) (6)  
USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Patriots Plaza III  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov  
(b) (6) (Main Line)  
(b) (6) (Desk)  
fax: 202-245-4795 or -4796

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: logged for special wah

Oh brother, water is a chemical H2O, don't people get it????

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: logged for special wah

Yeah, and chemical additives was another issue.

(b) (6)  
USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Patriots Plaza III  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov  
(b) (6) (Main Line)  
(b) (6) (Desk)  
fax: 202-245-4795 or -4796

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS



**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: logged for special wah

Oh well, this is not addressing natural, that is outside the scope of the proposal. TOO BAD.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: logged for special wah

That is because they natural people took over – I think there will be at about 800 of the comments that mention natural.

(b) (6)  
USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Patriots Plaza III  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)  
(b) (6) (Main Line)  
(b) (6) (Desk)  
fax: 202-245-4795 or -4796

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:44 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: logged for special wah

Wow that is a lot to be off point. Oh well, you group them together and give a summary of what they commented on and ignore them.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:43 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: logged for special wah

There are a lot. I haven't done the count yet but I suspect about 150 or so, maybe it just seems to be that many.

(b) (6)  
USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Patriots Plaza III  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)  
(b) (6) (Main Line)  
(b) (6) (Desk)  
fax: 202-245-4795 or -4796

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:38 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: logged for special wah

Of course there are always ones that have little or nothing to do with the proposal.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:37 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: logged for special wah

Yes, there many with big attachments, one with 47 pages. I just hope the attachment lets me copy text from the electronic file.

(b) (6)  
USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Patriots Plaza III  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)  
(b) (6) (Main Line)  
(b) (6) (Desk)  
fax: 202-245-4795 or -4796

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: logged for special wah

Yeah, that is a lot of comments if there aren't "form letters" and the late ones are usually big companies and associations or lawyers representing groups that often run 20-20 pages long. Good luck.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: logged for special wah

I think it is 878, that is what was on the website yesterday, we'll see if that is the same number today – last time Roz went there about two weeks ago it was 856 or something but it changed by three comments as we were looking at it – the comment period closed Jan 11. Right now they are painfully slow to log and record the comments in a document to track.

(b) (6)  
USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division

Patriots Plaza III

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

(b) (6) (Main Line)

(b) (6) (Desk)

fax: 202-245-4795 or -4796

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:31 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: logged for special wah

So how many comments did you get with the regulation?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:31 AM

**To:** FSIS - OPPD/LPDD

**Subject:** logged for special wah

Plan to work on comments today

(b) (6)

USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD

Labeling and Program Delivery Division

Patriots Plaza III

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

(b) (6) (Main Line)

(b) (6) (Desk)

fax: 202-245-4795 or -4796

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Logged on for Thursday  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:55:27 PM

---

(b) (6)

Would you call "Barbie??" RE a serving size question?

(b) (6)

Thanks,

(b) (6), Physical Scientist  
Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD)  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division (LPDD)

(b) (6)  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSID/Labeling\\_&\\_Consumer\\_Protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSID/Labeling_&_Consumer_Protection/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:31 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Logged on for Thursday

Ha ha. Tell him I'm still not seeing any retirement, and its PINK slime.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 7:53 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Logged on for Thursday

Good morning. Your husband #2 just called me.....he told me to tell (b) (6) " what the heck is he doing allowing people to put red slime in his hamburger?"

(b) (6), Physical Scientist  
Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD)  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division (LPDD)

(b) (6)  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSID/Labeling\\_&\\_Consumer\\_Protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSID/Labeling_&_Consumer_Protection/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 5:10 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OPPD/LPDD  
**Subject:** Logged on for Thursday

(b) (6) Senior Technical Advisor  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

**Phone** (b) (6) **Fax**(202) 245-4792

1400 Independence Ave., S.W. - Stop 3784  
Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor Room 8-161A  
Washington, DC 20250

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

**Please include your name and/or company name, phone number and complete e-mail address so that we may promptly reply to your inquiries.**

FSIS, Labeling and Program Delivery Division

**Website:** <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/larc/index.htm>

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** [Rogers, James - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MADB-FSNS meeting  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 6:13:55 PM

---

:)

---

**From:** Rogers, James - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: MADB-FSNS meeting

Hey now! That is a VERY sensitive issue around here!

No Comment!!!!

**James E. Rogers, Ph.D.**  
**Branch Chief/National Baselines Studies Director**  
**Microbiological Analysis and Data Branch**  
**Microbiology Division**  
**Office of Public Health Science**  
**United States Department of Agriculture**  
**Food Safety and Inspection Service**

**Mailing Address**

**Stop 3777, PP 3, # 9-226**

**1400 Independence Avenue, SW**

**Washington, DC 20250**

**Tel: 202-690-6537**

**Blackberry: (b) (6)**

**Fax: 202-690-6364**

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**From:** Bellinger, Gina [mailto:(b) (6)@FSNS.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 5:01 PM  
**To:** Rogers, James - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: MADB-FSNS meeting

Jim,  
Pink slime! Just jokin'! I think we are okay with postponing the call until your schedules open up. Just let us know what works for the group.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Rogers, James - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:42 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** MADB-FSNS meeting

Hi (b) (6)

We were trying to get a meeting for this week, but we are really busy. And next week is spring break around here. But if there are issues that need to be discussed soon, please let us know and we can get a small, quick meeting together.

Jim

**James E. Rogers, Ph.D.**  
**Branch Chief/National Baselines Studies Director**  
**Microbiological Analysis and Data Branch**  
**Microbiology Division**  
**Office of Public Health Science**  
**United States Department of Agriculture**  
**Food Safety and Inspection Service**

**Mailing Address**

**Stop 3777, PP 3, # 9-226**

**1400 Independence Avenue, SW**

**Washington, DC 20250**

**Tel: 202-690-6537**

**Blackberry: (b) (6)**

**Fax: 202-690-6364**

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: March 2012 EdNet  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 3:53:21 PM

---

I bet you guys are really busy. A few consumers called the FDA regarding pink slime and ground beef this week. A couple of them were disappointed that the FDA did not regulate meat because they really wanted to "lay" into me. :)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 3:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: March 2012 EdNet

Ok, thank you (b) (6)

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff  
Meat and Poultry Hotline  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Tel: (b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@fda.hhs.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:54 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** March 2012 EdNet

FDA articles for the March 2012 EdNet draft. Please see the attachment.

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na

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Mark WAH concludes - have a great weekend!  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 5:32:42 PM

---

Hey (b) (6)

I saw that report about the pink slime in hamburger. My grandfather use to work for Briggs and Smithfield, so I've heard the stories about how rules and safety have gone out the window every since "corporate-America" has gotten their hands on the government. ☹

I seriously think that I am going to stop eating meat and poultry altogether. The only way one can really know what they're eating is if they kill or grow their food themselves.

(b) (6)

Management Assistant

USDA, FSIS, OPPD

Risk, Innovations, and Management Division (RIMD)

Patriots Plaza 3

1400 Independence Avenue SW

Mailstop 3782

Room 8-163B

Washington, DC 20250-3700

(W) (b) (6)

(F) 202-245-4793

Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 5:14 PM  
**To:** FSIS - OPPD/RIMD  
**Subject:** Mark WAH concludes - have a great weekend!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: McDonald's Pink Slime: McDonald's to Stop Using "Pink Slime" in Hamburgers - ktla.com (just F Y I)  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:13:09 AM

---

Thanks (b) (6)

I'll be sending also a request for possible talking points from Dirk Filpot, momentarily, and see what they can do for us from downtown..

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff  
Meat and Poultry Hotline  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Tel: (b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:53 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: McDonald's Pink Slime: McDonald's to Stop Using "Pink Slime" in Hamburgers - ktla.com (just F Y I)

Hi (b) (6)

There are 2 emails in Ask Karen. I'm going to forward them to ECIMS but I guess we may need some talking points for chat or calls. Do we have some from previous encounters with this topic? I don't have my files at home but I guess I can search my emails.

I will forward the questions in the email just so you know what they asked...pretty basic though.

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: McDonald's Pink Slime: McDonald's to Stop Using "Pink Slime" in Hamburgers - ktla.com (just F Y I)

Subject: McDonald's Pink Slime: McDonald's to Stop Using "Pink Slime" in Hamburgers - ktla.com  
<http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-mcdonalds-pink-slime.0.4933956.story>

(b) (6) had 1 call related, yesterday -- let me know if you get calls, chats or e-mails related to this topic,

Thank you,

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff  
Meat and Poultry Hotline  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Tel: (b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: McDonald's Pink Slime: McDonald's to Stop Using "Pink Slime" in Hamburgers - ktla.com (just F Y I)  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:11:50 AM

---

They sure do at times,  
Hang in there !

(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Phone: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: McDonald's Pink Slime: McDonald's to Stop Using "Pink Slime" in Hamburgers - ktla.com (just F Y I)

I'll do that. The media causes so much anxiety!!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: McDonald's Pink Slime: McDonald's to Stop Using "Pink Slime" in Hamburgers - ktla.com (just F Y I)

**Subject:** McDonald's Pink Slime: McDonald's to Stop Using "Pink Slime" in Hamburgers - ktla.com  
<http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-mcdonalds-pink-slime.0.4933956.story>

(b) (6) had 1 call related, yesterday -- let me know if you get calls, chats or e-mails related to this topic,

Thank you,

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff  
Meat and Poultry Hotline  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Tel: (b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: McDonald's Pink Slime: McDonald's to Stop Using "Pink Slime" in Hamburgers - ktla.com (just F Y I)  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:20:31 AM

---

I'm sending an e-mail to Dirk Filpot with the same question, (b) (6)

(b) (6) suggested Dirk for possible key points.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff  
Meat and Poultry Hotline  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Tel: (b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: McDonald's Pink Slime: McDonald's to Stop Using "Pink Slime" in Hamburgers - ktla.com (just F Y I)

Does CPA has any information about this? Maybe we can understand better what it is...

(b) (6) M.S.  
Technical Information Specialist  
(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov  
(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: McDonald's Pink Slime: McDonald's to Stop Using "Pink Slime" in Hamburgers - ktla.com (just F Y I)

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(b) (6) had 1 call related, yesterday -- let me know if you get calls, chats or e-mails related to this topic,

Thank you,

(b) (6)

-----

[Redacted] [Redacted]

(b) (6)  
[Redacted] nation Specialist

[Redacted]  
[Redacted] St [Redacted] e, Mailstop 5269  
[Redacted] Baltimore [Redacted] 20900 [Redacted]

(b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]



**From:** (b) (6) [nnis - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: MDM Exports  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:50:25 PM

---

Yes sir you are correct. Enjoy your weekend.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 02:49 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: MDM Exports

Thank you, it looks we have to wait until we see the new regulations.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 02:47 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: MDM Exports

Thanks for the email I have not heard of this.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 02:28 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: MDM Exports

I received a phone call from Judy at Koch Foods asking me about the MDM new rule wich I do not know anything about it. I asked her to send me an email about the which she did. I thought you might have more information about this issue, if you do please let me.

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@kochfoods.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 01:23 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: MDM Exports

Any info you can give me will be appreciated.

(b) (6)  
*QA Manager*  
*Koch Foods*  
*Gainesville, Ga*  
*Phone (b) (6)*  
*Fax 770-531-1487*

---

**From:** Bill Fasulo [mailto:(b) (6)@kochfoods.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 2:18 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)@kochfoods.com; (b) (6)@kochfoods.com  
**Subject:** FW: MDM Exports

Billy Fasulo  
General Mgr./Sales  
Koch Foods  
Gainesville, Ga.  
Plant # 770-536-8819  
Office # (b) (6)  
e-mail (b) (6)@kochfoods.com

---

**From:** Wally Lewis [mailto:wallew@kochfoods.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:26 PM  
**To:** 'David Roney'; 'Bill Fasulo'  
**Subject:** FW: MDM Exports

---

**From:** Pettit Ewing [mailto:(b) (6)@kochfoods.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 12:32 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)@kochfoods.com; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** MDM Exports

Gentlemen,

A last minute conference call was held today with NCC, USAPEEC, and USP&E concerning MDM. This conference call concerned a Notice that will be issued Monday 4/2/2012 concerning MDM. While the exact Notice has not been shared, these groups have met individually with FSIS personnel as to what its impact will be. Here are the pertinent facts that we have so far:

1. FSIS wants to remove the "For Cooking Only" from the label from MDM as "redundant". This has the effect of converting the product from its current exempt from testing status to "Raw, Ground" status. The exemption will only remain for product that can be "proven" to be cooked at FSIS or FDA federally inspected facilities.
2. If this product is shipped to any location that is not FSIS or FDA federally inspected the product becomes subject to the "Raw, Ground" Performance Standard.
3. FSIS will initiate Performance Standard testing on these MDM production facilities. The current Performance Standard for this product is 49% positive out of 51 Samples. While this may sound reasonable, I have not been able to find anyone who has tested MDM at less than about 90% positive. FSIS is currently collecting the data to reduce this standard to a lower level as well.
4. Facilities that fail the performance standard will be immediately subject to a "for cause" FSA and subsequent NOIE.
5. During the Performance Standard testing all Salmonella positive samples will be typed to determine if they are pathogenic strains. If a Salmonella of interest is found (ie. Heidelberg), and there were an outbreak or other finding, that matched all of the other products (read tenders, fillets, or bone-in, etc.) produced in the establishment would also be open to scrutiny (ala Cargill).

6. Follow up testing can be initiated back down the supply chain all the way to the farm level looking for these human pathogens (again, ala Cargill). This will be done even if no human illnesses have been reported and the strains will be “fingerprinted” into the VetNet and PulseNet databases looking for any possible matches.
7. Under the NOIE, the production facility will be expected to find preventive actions that will allow ALL of the product produced (even domestic) to meet the current and future performance standards for “Raw,Ground” product, or shut down.
8. When questioned for possible alternatives for exporting product the FSIS response was “either cook it on-site or stop selling it”.
9. During questioning, FSIS admitted that there had been no illnesses or food safety complaints associated with this product.
10. With the recent furor over LFTB (“pink slime”) and the use of ammonium hydroxide to make that product safe, we will likely receive little to no assistance approving any antimicrobial agent to try and meet this standard.

Note that according to all we have heard so far, none of this would have any effect on product shipped domestically to federally inspected customers. FSIS fully realizes that this is a problem that may have no solution, that in effect they may as well have just banned export of MDM. They also realize that MDM is a highly blended product, difficult to lot back to specific suppliers, so you not only put your MDM plant at risk of an NOIE but effectively your entire production chain as well as those of anyone that sells frames to you. We could feasibly be drawn into this if we sold frames to an outside MDM grinder that decided to try and export it with or without our knowledge.

This explanation has been scraped together from several sources, we will have to see if it is confirmed on Monday with the issuance of the Notice. FSIS has stated that the Notice becomes effect immediately upon issuance.

Remember, it is not paranoia if they really are after you.

H. Pettit Ewing, DVM  
Director, Veterinary Services  
Koch Foods, LLC  
299 Airport Road South  
Pearl, MS 39208  
(601) 732-3035 Office  
(b) (6) Cell  
(601) 732-3302 Fax  
(b) (6)@kochfoods.com

**From:** [Bob Monahan](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Me  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:24:35 PM

---

Pink Slime is not meat!!!

On Mar 14, 2012 5:19 PM, (b) (6) - FSIS" (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov) > wrote:

Pink Slime is just "Ammonium Hydroxide" and is used to kill the bad bugs in Hamburger. Why are you worried, your' full of Arsenic, Cadmium, Zinc and Copper from the Smelter anyway. Pink Slime is nothing compared to that.

---

**From:** Bob Monahan [mailto:(b) (6) [@gmail.com](mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:14 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Me

How come you never told me about Pink Slime. I'm sick now!!!

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**From:** [Tracie Enos](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Meat Industry Impact Unknown/"Pink Slime" Dropped  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:15:57 PM

---

Came through OK thanks (b) (6)

Tracie

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)@firewireinternet.com  
**Subject:** FW: Meat Industry Impact Unknown/"Pink Slime" Dropped

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@agri.ohio.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:31 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)

(b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Meat Industry Impact Unknown/"Pink Slime" Dropped

FYI

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Meat Industry Impact Unknown/"Pink Slime" Dropped

Attached is an article of interest.

(b) (6)

This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

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**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Meat inspector protest at USDA Monday in name of food safety  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:07:23 PM

---

Oh, dear.....

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 07:06 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Meat inspector protest at USDA Monday in name of food safety

Ha! Tomorrow will be interesting...!

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 07:05 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Meat inspector protest at USDA Monday in name of food safety

Dirk! Dirk, this is about Amber, not about my reaction to your Pink Slime group hug idea! Good God, man....come to your senses! :)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 07:00 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Meat inspector protest at USDA Monday in name of food safety

Great - thanks!

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 06:58 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Meat inspector protest at USDA Monday in name of food safety

Sorry -- getting to this late. I don't have my laptop with me but let me know if you need help. Also, she may write about testing of trim tomorrow. Working to get something cleared but have been delayed in getting the information to draft a reponse -- wanted you to be aware.

---

**From:** Healy, Amber [mailto:[\(b\) \(6\)](#)@informa.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 06:38 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Meat inspector protest at USDA Monday in name of food safety

We're wrapping up everything now, but I can probably squeeze in few lines tomorrow morning if we have a comment by noon.

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS [mailto:[Dirk.Fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Dirk.Fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:37 PM  
**To:** Healy, Amber; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Meat inspector protest at USDA Monday in name of food safety

What is your deadline. Thanks

---

**From:** Healy, Amber [[mailto:a\(b\)\(6\)@informa.com](mailto:a(b)(6)@informa.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 05:39 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Meat inspector protest at USDA Monday in name of food safety

I wasn't sure if this had been forwarded to you by now; I hadn't had a chance to read it until a few minutes ago because I was on the NACMCF call earlier this afternoon and then finishing up other things.

If USDA would like to comment, we'd be happy to include it in the issue going out tomorrow.

Thanks,  
Amber

---

**From:** Anna Ghosh [[mailto:a\(b\)\(6\)@fwwatch.org](mailto:a(b)(6)@fwwatch.org)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:20 PM  
**To:** Anna Ghosh  
**Subject:** Meat inspector protest at USDA Monday in name of food safety

A recent Food & Water Watch analysis of the HACCP-based Inspection Models Project (HIMP) found an appalling amount of defective and unsanitary poultry contaminated with feces, bile and feathers was missed by company employees.

The public has until April 26 to comment on the program and, according to Secretary Vilsack, implementation of this widespread privatization proposal could begin when the next fiscal year starts in October. Since this is a budget-driven proposal, there is a lot of pressure from House Republicans to implement program ASAP.

On Monday, inspectors and consumer advocates will be protesting outside the USDA. Details on the protest below. Details on Food & Water Watch's analysis here: <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/pressreleases/privatized-meat-inspection-experiment-jeopardizes-food-safety/>

Food safety should not be threatened to balance the budget. I hope you will cover the protest.

Best,  
Anna

---

Anna Ghosh  
Food Policy and Western Region Communications Manager  
Food & Water Watch  
25 Stillman Street, Suite 200  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
(415) 293-9905  
(415) 293-9920 - Fax  
[aghosh@fwwatch.org](mailto:aghosh@fwwatch.org)  
[www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 28, 2012

Contacts:

Enid Doggett

202-639-6422 (office)

[doggee@afge.org](mailto:doggee@afge.org)

Alan Kadrofske

202-639-4000

## **FOOD INSPECTORS, CONSUMER GROUPS TO PROTEST POULTRY PROPOSAL**

*Rally outside Agriculture Department headquarters planned for Monday*

**WASHINGTON** – Federal food inspectors represented by the American Federation of Government Employees will join with consumer watchdogs and concerned citizens to protest proposed changes to the poultry inspections process that they fear could put the American public at risk.

A rally outside the Agriculture Department headquarters is planned for 11:30 a.m. Monday, April 2. Leaders of the participating groups will offer brief remarks and will be available for on-site interviews.

Participants hope to raise awareness of a regulation proposed by Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service that will partially privatize the poultry inspections process and drastically increase the number of birds federal inspectors must examine.

More information on the issue is available at [www.LetThemEatChicken.com](http://www.LetThemEatChicken.com).

Details:

What: Rally to oppose proposed changes to poultry inspections process

When: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, April 2

Where: Jefferson Drive SW in front of Agriculture Department building's visitor's entrance

Who: Food Safety and Inspections Service employees; members of Food & Water Watch, Consumer Federation of America, National Consumers League, Government Accountability Project; other concerned citizens

#####

*The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) is the largest federal*



*employee union, representing 625,000 workers in the federal government and the government of the District of Columbia.*

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Meatingplace exclusive interview: FSIS's Dan Engeljohn  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:59:01 AM

---

Right!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

(b) (6) MS, VMD

PHV Staff Officer

USDA, FSIS, OPPD Policy Development Division

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Avenue Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5908

Phone (b) (6) Fax (402) 344-5007

*Policy is my passion.*

*Have you searched [askFSIS?](#)*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Meatingplace exclusive interview: FSIS's Dan Engeljohn

If he's not authorized...who is? He is the one that approved it on day one!!!

(b) (6)

USDA; FSIS; OPPD

Policy Development Division

Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260

Omaha, NE

Office (800)(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 7:41 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Meatingplace exclusive interview: FSIS's Dan Engeljohn

Did you see the comment about the pink slime?

Meatingplace exclusive interview: FSIS's Dan Engeljohn

By [Tom Johnston](#) on 3/19/2012

CHICAGO — USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service has a lot on its mind.

One thing at the top of it is reducing Salmonella contamination in the products it regulates. And while the agency is paying particular attention to poultry, its leaders are keeping an eye on beef, too.

On the sidelines of the North American Meat Processors Association's Meat Industry Management Conference here, Dan Engeljohn, assistant administrator of FSIS's Office of Policy & Program Development, tells **Meatingplace** what the agency is thinking.

**Meatingplace: USDA and other federal agencies are working to improve their ability to link a foodborne illness to a particular food. With regard to Salmonella, do you expect attribution to show animal proteins in particular as a major source relative to other foods?**

ENGELJOHN: The attribution efforts are really important in helping us to know where to target our resources. Prevention of contamination and protecting consumers is our No. 1 priority. By focusing on contamination in particular for poultry we think it will cause industry to take steps to improve their ability to prevent contamination and thereby prevent consumers from ultimately getting sick. It's difficult to relate directly mitigations we take and outcomes because so many factors contribute to why a person gets sick, but through our attribution efforts we do know that oftentimes when epidemiological investigations are done, of the foods we regulate poultry is more often identified as the source of potential contamination in the recent consumption history of that person.

**Meatingplace: [Undersecretary for Food Safety Elisabeth] Hagen has said the poultry industry can expect even tighter regulations related to salmonella and campylobacter contamination. Is the agency moving toward a zero-tolerance standard for those pathogens?**

ENGELJOHN: We're about preventing foodborne illness and putting in place mitigations that are practical. So for raw products, where we know it's not feasible to eliminate pathogens, our goal is to prevent contamination, put in place standards to track whether or not there's progress toward reducing contamination and then adjusting them if we can continue to drive down contamination. Our focus for our raw product is to ensure we're preventing, to the maximum extent practical, contamination. We also couple that with a number of efforts related to ensuring consumers are aware of and are exercising best practices for food safety practices.

**Meatingplace: FSIS expects plants to account for seasonal changes in microbial profiles in their hazard analysis. Why, then, will the agency's baseline study on salmonella in chicken parts span only six months?**

ENGELJOHN: We are doing it in what we consider the warmest temperatures, which have been a time when Salmonella is typically high for the carcass study and ground poultry study we have. We're looking at a time when performance is probably at its worst. Also it's consistent with how we originally set ground product standards with the original HACCP rule in 1996. We used, in some cases, six months or less for the baseline studies that we completed at that time. We think it's sufficient to be able to set a standard.

**Meatingplace: The chicken parts study reflects the agency's additional concerns**

**about salmonella in poultry. Are you seeing trends in beef in terms of salmonella contamination that concern you, and what is the agency doing to address that concern?**

ENGELJOHN: For beef, we always have concerns ... because these are raw products. It isn't feasible to prepare these products processed from live animals without some contamination. Our policies have been to minimize that contamination to the maximum extent that is practical. We constantly look for adverse trends, and if there are we take steps to reset those standards. There is a need to focus on prevention; there are steps that can be taken during slaughter where establishments can do more to prevent contamination rather than decontaminate the carcasses that are contaminated. We issued a directive in November ... [with] a direct focus on non-sanitary dressing of beef carcasses with a particular focus on documenting control procedures and action limits for prevention during slaughter.

**Meatingplace: Do you expect any regulatory ramifications stemming from this 'pink slime' hysteria? Anything that would change how FSIS classifies it in processing?**

ENGELJOHN: I'm not authorized to answer that question. In terms of defining the product and whether it's safe, we have assessed that and that's where we stand on that issue.

(b) (6) MS, VMD

PHV Staff Officer

USDA, FSIS, OPPD Policy Development Division

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1616 Capitol Avenue Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5908

Phone (b) (6) Fax (402) 344-5007

*Policy is my passion.*

*Have you searched [askFSIS?](#)*

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: media inquiry on pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:39:32 AM

---

Awesome. And I'm now in my training so I'm going to step away from my bb and I'll check in later. Thanks!!

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884 NOTE NEW NUMBER  
Cell: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 08:37 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: media inquiry on pink slime

Thanks – I've spoken with Aaron since I sent this email, so we are now in-tune with the game plan...

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:36 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: media inquiry on pink slime

Please let (b) (6) and Nichele know that pink slime calls need to go to 720-4623. I guess you could check with Aaron, but I don't think he wants the emails - they're having their secretaries triage all of the calls.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884 NOTE NEW NUMBER  
Cell: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 07:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** media inquiry on pink slime

From CBS Radio. Contact info below

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:18 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1632 PROJ=63

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Media Staff](#).

**Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** [1632](#)  
**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)  
**Secondary Subject:**  
**Call Date:** [03/15/2012 8:00 AM](#)  
**Contact Name:** [Jenny Glick](#)  
**Caller Type:** [Media](#)  
**Contact Phone Number:**

**Cell Phone Number:** (b) (6)

**Alt. Phone Number:**

**Contact Email Address:**

**Employer/Organization:** CBS Radio

**Call Info:** Entered on 2012-03-15 at 08:18:11 by Peggy Riek :

Reporter called for Carol or Bill Bagley. Re:

announcement today about "pink slime."

Questions: What is it? How do you know if your meat has "pink slime."

She would like a call asap today on her cell phone.

**Notes:** Entered on 03/15/2012 at 08:18:10 EDT (GMT-0400) by Peggy Riek:

[ no Notes entered ]

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. ♦ Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. ♦ Update ticket **1632** with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)

**From:** [DeJong, Justin - OC](#)  
**To:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Rowe, Courtney - OC](#); [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Brownlee, Jim - OC](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) [FAS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: media query from Japan on beef  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:18:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

Looping in international folks.

**Justin DeJong**

Deputy Director, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.690.0548  
USDA Cell: 202.251.3309  
[justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov](mailto:justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov)  
<http://www.usda.gov>

*Stay Connected with USDA:*



---

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:48 AM  
**To:** DeJong, Justin - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Brownlee, Jim - OC; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: media query from Japan on beef

I sent statement to Nippon TV as well as Prince William County School in Virginia, which says it is getting lots of irate phone calls

---

**From:** Tomoko Horie [<mailto:horie@ntvic.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:43 AM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** media query

Hi Mr. Jarvis,

I am a news producer for Japanese TV network, Nippon TV of Japan.  
I am looking for a statement issued by USDA last week on the purchase of Lean Beef Trimmings from BPI company.  
Could you kindly send me that statement?



Thank you very much.  
Tomoko

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Agriculture is defending the use of ammonium-treated beef, dubbed “pink slime” by detractors, in meals destined for U.S. schoolchildren as part of the national school lunch program.

The Internet news source The Daily reported this week that 7 million pounds (3.2 million kg) of the product — beef trimmings treated partly with ammonium hydroxide to fight contamination — would appear in school lunches this spring.

“All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety.” the agency said in a statement.

“USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.”

--

\*\*\*\*\*

Tomoko Horie  
Nippon TV, Washington, D.C. Bureau  
[Email:horie@ntvic.com](mailto:Email:horie@ntvic.com)  
Tel: 202-210-8425

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Message for my brother Trim Cubed (AKA- cube steak)  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:58:03 PM

---

Pink slime in trim from trim....isn't that an appetizing thought?

(b) (6) Program Auditor

USDA-FSIS-ICAD-OPEER-FSAB

Salisbury Field Office

212 West Main St.

Plaza Gallery Building, Suite 302

Salisbury, MD 21801

Ph) (b) (6)

BB) (b) (6) Pin: (b) (6)

Fax) 410-341-3612

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:57 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Message for my brother Trim Cubed (AKA- cube steak)

Trim is just another name for building block of pink slime

(b) (6)

**Program Auditor**

**USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch**

**Edward Zorinsky Federal Building**

**1616 Capitol Ave, Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5980**

(b) (6) (office), (b) (6) (mobile), (402) 344-5104 (Fax)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:56 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Message for my brother Trim Cubed (AKA- cube steak)

T-bone.....stand for....trim bone

(b) (6) Program Auditor

USDA-FSIS-ICAD-OPEER-FSAB

Salisbury Field Office

212 West Main St.

Plaza Gallery Building, Suite 302

Salisbury, MD 21801

Ph) (b) (6)

BB) (b) (6) Pin: (b) (6)

Fax) 410-341-3612

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:55 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Message for my brother Trim Cubed (AKA- cube steak)

You are correct cube steak

(b) (6)

Program Auditor

USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Ave, Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5980

(b) (6) (office), (b) (6) (mobile), (402) 344-5104 (Fax)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:54 PM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: RE: Message for my brother Trim Cubed (AKA- cube steak)

You mean.....Chief Magneto!

(b) (6) Program Auditor

USDA-FSIS-ICAD-OPEER-FSAB

Salisbury Field Office

212 West Main St.

Plaza Gallery Building, Suite 302

Salisbury, MD 21801

Ph) (b) (6)

BB) (b) (6) Pin: (b) (6)

Fax) 410-341-3612

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:54 PM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: Message for my brother Trim Cubed (AKA- cube steak)

Note I found in the PHIS Directive I am reviewing for the "magnet"

#### **IV. INSPECTION PROGRAM PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES**

##### **A. The Installation Process:**

1. Generally, IPP need to install the application only once. When IPP (user of DCU) receive the CD, they should follow the installation instruction in Attachment 1 and contact the FSIS Service Desk to let it know they are installing the Disconnected State software application and need a key code.
2. If IPP who are users of the Disconnected State application do not receive the installation CD, they need to contact the FSIS Service Desk. The Service Desk will mail a disk to IPP.
3. IPP cannot install the PHIS Disconnected State application without contacting the Service Desk. The FSIS Service Desk is open 24 hours, 7 days a week, and can be contacted by leaving a Footprints ticket at <http://service/footprints> or by calling 1-800-473-9135.

(b) (6)

Program Auditor

USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Ave, Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5980

(b) (6) (office), (b) (6) (mobile), (402) 344-5104 (Fax)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](https://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime is an outrage  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:47:01 AM

---

Ok

(b) (6), M.S.  
Staff Officer - Biologist  
USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Health Science  
Microbiology Division  
Stop 3777, PP 3, Room 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 690-6364  
E-Mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:45 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime is an outrage

Sounds good please request.

Gerri M. Ransom  
Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science  
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-6600  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
E-mail: gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 3:14 PM  
To: Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
Subject: FW: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime is an outrage

Gerri,

I wonder if we can get a copy of Neil's response here. I keep a folder with all the questions and answers to the consumer questions.

(b) (6), M.S.  
Staff Officer - Biologist  
USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Health Science  
Microbiology Division

Stop 3777, PP 3, Room 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
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E-Mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime is an outrage  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:08:53 AM

---

Because it is not a media inquiry, our constituent folks are handling it. I don't have the reply, but we will have updated information later today. I will try to get you something.

Neil Gaffney  
Press Officer  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460  
Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:25 AM  
To: Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime is an outrage

Neil,

Did you send a reply out on this? If so I have not seen it and would appreciate a copy for our records.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6), M.S.  
Staff Officer - Biologist  
USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Health Science  
Microbiology Division  
Stop 3777, PP 3, Room 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 690-6364  
E-Mail: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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-----Original Message-----

From: Gaffney, Neil - FSIS

Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:07 AM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS; Ransom, Gerri - FSIS

Cc: Dessai, Uday - FSIS

Subject: RE: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime is an outrage

Will do.

Neil Gaffney

Press Officer

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460

Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Karl and Gerald  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:45:11 PM

---

I googled it and it's all over the internet now, but here is the report that I saw first:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

(b) (6)

Supervisory Microbiologist  
USDA, FSIS, Eastern Laboratory  
950 College Station Road  
Athens, GA 30605

Phone: (b) (6)  
Fax: 706-546-3108  
email: (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:57 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Karl and Gerald

Interesting. I didn't see that. Maybe I can catch it online. I always knew that they were "wild cards!"

Thanks,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Karl and Gerald

Hey (b) (6)

I just have to tell someone that I saw brief interviews with both Carl Custer and Gerald Zirnstein on the national news Wednesday night. They were speaking out about the "pink slime" that USDA allows in ground beef. Apparently the piece generated such a huge response for the network that they did a brief follow piece on it last night. Apparently most

viewers wanted to know where to buy ground beef without it.

(b) (6)

Supervisory Microbiologist  
USDA, FSIS, Eastern Laboratory  
950 College Station Road  
Athens, GA 30605

Phone (b) (6)

Fax: 706-546-3108

email (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

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**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You  
**Date:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:20:58 PM

---

You or Dirk should handle it. Best ~

Brian K. Mabry  
Congressional and Media  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Please Note New Direct Dial  
tel. 202.720.9891 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 03:19 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You

I'll email him unless either of you would rather be in touch.

**Cathy Cochran, Public Affairs Specialist**  
Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-0428, Cell: 202-527-0607  
[Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)  
[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)  
PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:11 PM  
**To:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You

I need someone to take care of him – he is blowin up my phone.

I am dealing with pink slime and some pta moms down in Florida. FNS is trying to reinvigorate the pink slime debate.

---

**From:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:09 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You

Short answer is no.

Do you need a longer answer?

**Cathy Cochran**, *Public Affairs Specialist*  
Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-0428, Cell: 202-527-0607  
Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov  
[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)  
[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)  
PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:07 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You

---

**From:** Tomson, Bill [mailto:Bill.Tomson@dowjones.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 3:10 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Subject:** FW: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You

Is this the same thing as the labeling requirements for water and salt pumped into the meat?

---

**From:** USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service [mailto:usfsis@govdelivery.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 2:13 PM  
**To:** Tomson, Bill  
**Subject:** Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You

## **[Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You](#)**

03/01/2012 12:20 PM EST

*New Labels to Provide Consumers With the Information They Need to Make Healthy Food Choices:* Under a new FSIS rule, packages of ground or chopped meat and poultry, such as hamburger or ground turkey, will now feature nutrition facts panels on their labels.

---

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**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You  
**Date:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:23:35 PM

---

Cathy's on it

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:19 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You

I'll email him unless either of you would rather be in touch.

**Cathy Cochran**, *Public Affairs Specialist*  
Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-0428, Cell: 202-527-0607  
[Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)  
[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)  
PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You  
**Date:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:32:41 PM

---

Thanks, Cathy

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:32 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You

Yes pink slime was getting a little boring.

Bill should be taken care of.

**Cathy Cochran, Public Affairs Specialist**  
Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-0428, Cell: 202-527-0607  
[Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)  
[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)  
PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:11 PM  
**To:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Key Nutrition Information for Most Popular Meat and Poultry Products Coming to a Store Near You

I need someone to take care of him – he is blowin up my phone.

I am dealing with pink slime and some pta moms down in Florida. FNS is trying to reinvigorate the pink slime debate.

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: LA Times Story  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:14:28 PM

---

That really makes sense. I talked with BPI and they were perplexed by this one as they say they haven't even tried to sell their products there.

----- Original Message -----

From: Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 12:49 PM  
To: (b) (6) - AMS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
Subject: RE: LA Times Story

We are checking. However, it is critical for you to know that the EU specifically prohibits the use of any antimicrobial treatments during post-harvest including chlorine. Thus, I would guess that there is a general prohibition of antimicrobials; not a specific prohibition of anhydrous ammonium.

Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (b) (6) -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - AMS  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 12:57 PM  
To: Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
Subject: Fw: LA Times Story

Do we know if it is true that LFTB is banned in the UK?

----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (6) - AMS  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 11:17 AM  
To: (b) (6) - AMS  
Subject: FW: LA Times Story

According to the article beef trimmings are banned for human consumption in the UK, is that true. And I would appreciate your input on the decision memo when you have a chance.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 12:10 PM  
To: Lavalley, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS  
Subject: LA Times Story

Posted 20 minutes ago

'This is also in their Hot Topics header on each web page under the heading Pink Slime

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-pink-slime-20120309.0.1330346.story>



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[REDACTED]

Service

6557  
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#); [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: LA Times Story  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:36:17 PM

---

Thanks (b) (6) I am not sure whether it is banned or not either.

Jeff

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:01 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: LA Times Story

FYI-I just referred AMS to (b) (6) (FAS) on (b) (6) staff, since I did not know for sure and she manages all the EU issues. I was just raising the issue to the staff to find out....

(b) (6)

International Policy Division  
Office of Policy and Program Development  
Food Safety and Inspection Service

Phone: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
FAX: 202.720.4929

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: LA Times Story

Do you know? We need an answer.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:56 AM  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: LA Times Story

Do we know if it is true that LFTB is banned in the UK?

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** FW: LA Times Story

According to the article beef trimmings are banned for human consumption in the UK, is that true. And I would appreciate your input on the decision memo when you have a chance.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:10 PM

To: Lavalley, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS  
Subject: LA Times Story

Posted 20 minutes ago

'This is also in their Hot Topics header on each web page under the heading Pink Slime

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-pink-slime-20120309.0.1330346.story>

Michael T. Jarvis  
Director  
Public Affairs  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
USDA  
202-690-3816

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Labeling Accuracy  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 8:35:57 AM

---

I am not sure what is outstanding question is? He wondered if ground sirloin can contain pink slime. He then contacted USDA for clarification and we said that that ground sirloin can contain LFTB provided the trimmings are from the sirloin. This is a true statement. BPI does have a segregation and labels approved for LFTB from chuck, round, etc.

Jeff

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 8:07 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Labeling Accuracy

Roz

I never had a chance to talk to you about this man's issue. I spoke to him on the phone and indicated that we would need something in writing from him in order to follow up on the complaint. I'm not sure how to do that exactly, but the issue of course is Lean Finely Textured Beef – the hot topic of the week.

(b) (6)  
USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Patriots Plaza III  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)  
(b) (6) (Main Line)  
(b) (6) (Desk)  
fax: 202-245-4795 or -4796

---

**From:** Tom Collins [[mailto:tom\(b\) \(6\)@gmail.com](mailto:tom(b) (6)@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:34 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Labeling Accuracy

I was worried about spelling Rosalyn correctly I didn't even see I had misspelled Murphy incorrectly.

Thanks for forwarding.

Tom

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:13 PM  
**To:** Tom Collins

**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Labeling Accuracy

Tom

Yes for me, no for Rosalyn, I'll forward to her.

Roz is out today and I am out tomorrow. I'll talk with her about it on Monday. She may want to assign your question to a particular staff person.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD

Labeling and Program Delivery Division

Patriots Plaza III

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6) (Main Line)

(b) (6) (Desk)

fax: 202-245-4795 or -4796

---

**From:** Tom Collins [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@gmail.com](mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:51 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [roselyn.muphy-jenkins@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:roselyn.muphy-jenkins@fsis.usda.gov)

**Subject:** RE: Labeling Accuracy

Let's see if I spelled the name right this time.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Labeling Accuracy  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:34:18 PM

---

No, that is news to me. But it is correct. They make all kinds of ground beef into FTB, yes they do sirloin, round, etc.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:31 PM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Labeling Accuracy

Did you see this?

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:13 PM  
**To:** Tom Collins  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Labeling Accuracy

Tom

Yes for me, no for Rosalyn, I'll forward to her.

Roz is out today and I am out tomorrow. I'll talk with her about it on Monday. She may want to assign your question to a particular staff person.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD

Labeling and Program Delivery Division

Patriots Plaza III

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Tom Collins](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn](#) - FSIS; [Canavan, Jeff](#) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Labeling Accuracy  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:39:29 PM

---

Yes, it does. Thank you.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:36 PM  
**To:** Tom Collins  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Labeling Accuracy

Tom

To answer your question, yes, product labeled as "ground beef sirloin" can contain lean finely textured beef (LFTB) provided it is derived from sirloin beef. The larger companies do have segregation programs in order to ensure that the source of the LFTB is accurate to a specific cut of meat when identified in the product name, for example, beef sirloin.

I believe this clarifies the answer, but if not, or if you have any other questions let me know.

Thank you,

(b) (6)  
USDA/ FSIS/ OPPD  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Patriots Plaza III  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](#)  
(b) (6) (Main Line)  
(b) (6) (Desk)  
fax: 202-245-4795 or -4796

---

**From:** Tom Collins [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [roselyn.murphy-jenkins@fsis.usda.gov](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Labeling Accuracy

Let's see if I spelled the name right this time.

**From:** Tom Collins [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](#); [rosalyn.murphy-jenkins@fsis.usda.gov](#)  
**Subject:** Labeling Accuracy

With all the news about pink slime (I'll call it PS from here on) lately, it made me question which products had it, and which ones didn't. While I trust that PS may be edible, I still think it's gross and would prefer not to eat it.

I recently bought some frozen ground sirloin patties from Kroger (upc: 0 11110 97987 2),

thinking that because it said "ground sirloin", and not ground beef, that there wouldn't be any PS in it.

The next day I saw an article quoting Kroger saying that if it's customers wanted to avoid the PS then they needed to buy it's Private Selection brand

(<http://consumerist.com/2012/03/kroger-clarifies-which-of-its-ground-beef-products-are-free-of-pink-slime.html>).

So now I'm wondering about the ground sirloin product I just bought the day before. So I called up Kroger's customer support and they confirmed to me that their Kroger brand ground sirloin may contain PS (or course they call it finely textured beef product).

So then I called the USDA to find out if this is allowed. I was told by them that ground sirloin can only contain meat from the sirloin. And that while it is possible for it to contain PS, the PS would have to come from the sirloin only, and wouldn't be very practical.

I'm hoping you can get to the bottom of this. Please keep me informed with the results if you can.

Thanks

Tom Collins

(b) (6)

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: lactic acid shelf life [Incident: 120306-000075]  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 1:23:04 PM

---

Are you available to chat

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector - Relief

Duty Station:

Damn Good Foods Inc.

312 A North Hudson Ave.

Stillwater, NY 12170

Cell (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 1:22 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: lactic acid shelf life [Incident: 120306-000075]

FYI

Pink slime

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/?rss=rss-wabc-snippet-7091254>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:56 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: lactic acid shelf life [Incident: 120306-000075]

FYI

(b) (6) asked me to let you know that her computer is not able to connect. So if you need to contact her the best thing to do is call. She currently is at SUNY

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector - Relief

Duty Station:

Damn Good Foods Inc.

312 A North Hudson Ave.

Stillwater, NY 12170

Cell (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:37 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: lactic acid shelf life [Incident: 120306-000075]

FYI

---

**From:** James Eklund [mailto:(b) (6)@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:26 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: lactic acid shelf life [Incident: 120306-000075]

---

**From:** (b) (6)@custhelp.com  
**To:** (b) (6)@hotmail.com  
**Date:** Wed, 7 Mar 2012 09:39:13 -0500  
**Subject:** lactic acid shelf life [Incident: 120306-000075]

Recently you requested personal assistance from our on-line support center. Below is a summary of your request and our response.

Thank you for allowing us to be of service to you.

To update this question by email, please reply to this message. Because your reply will be automatically processed, you **MUST** enter your reply in the space below. Text entered into any other part of this message will be discarded.

[====> Please enter your reply below this line <====]

[====> Please enter your reply above this line <====]

[To access your question from our support site, click here.](#)

### Subject

lactic acid shelf life

### Discussion Thread

#### Response Via Email (PDD Staff Officer)

03/07/2012 09:39 AM

Lactic acid can be kept from one day to the next mixed in the bottle ready to spray on the carcass provided that doing so does not create an insanitary condition. The establishment is not required to mix a fresh batch each day of processing.

#### Auto-Response

03/06/2012 03:20 PM

Your message has been received at the FSIS Policy Development Division (PDD) and will be assigned to a staff specialist for response.

Our goal is to provide an accurate response as quickly as possible—in most instances, this will be within two working days. Some questions, however, require extensive research and will take longer to answer. If you would like to know the status of your question, you can telephone PDD for additional discussion at 1-800-233-3935 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. Please refer to the incident reference number below when calling for clarification.

The reference number for your question is 120306-000075.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/118509/username/cbgarion](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/118509/username/cbgarion)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Policy Development Division.

#### Customer By Web Form (James Eklund)

03/06/2012 03:20 PM

Can lactic acid be kept from one day to the next mixed in the bottle ready to spray on the carcass or do you have to mix a fresh batch each day of processing?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 4:01:36 PM

---

I know of the BPI in Garden City. It's adjacent to the beef plant there. I haven't heard anything from anyone in Amarillo. I'll email one of my buds down there and see what he has to say. Most likely all BPI's customers are running scared at this time due to all the media hype. What the media fails to report is that the product isn't by any means new, and that it's completely safe. News Channel 10 in Amarillo wanted to do an interview with Brown's plant manager two weeks ago. They don't produce LFTB and are unfamiliar with the process, so they declined. The news did report that night that the only local retail store in our area that uses LFTB in their ground beef products is Wal-Mart.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, OFO

CSI, IIC

Stratford, Texas

office: (b) (6)

cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:46 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton

It's BPI, Beef Products Inc.

(b) (6), CSI

Durant, Oklahoma

(b) (6) (Cell)

(580)924-2414 Ext. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:44 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton

What they are referring to as pink slime has been known by the industry for years as Lean Finely Textured Beef. It's produced by some sophisticated mechanical means that separates knife trimmings into lean beef. From what I'm told...fat and connective tissue are removed and the resulting lean beef product is treated with ammonium phosphate as an anti microbial intervention. I've never seen the process or worked any place where they produce such a product. For all intents and purposes, it sounds about like the same process the poultry folks use to harvest poultry meat from carcasses. LFTB has been around for years.

I don't know anything about the plants that closed. Who are they?

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, OFO

CSI, IIC

Stratford, Texas

office: (b) (6) 97

cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton

What do you know about Pink Slime Beef and the three plants that shut down???

(b) (6), CSI

Durant, Oklahoma

(b) (6) (Cell)

(580)924-2414 Ext. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:35 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton

I agree about not wanting to foot the bill. Which plant is (b) (6) stationed at now? I know you said they added some plants to his assignment, but I'm confused about his duty station.

As for the vacation...it was one of my best. I totally enjoyed every minute, and as you can guess...the rain was a novelty. My brother (b) (6) and I went spotlighting down on Little Frog Bayou during the flash flood. The swiftness of the water was awesome!

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, OFO

CSI, IIC

Stratford, Texas

office: (b) (6)

cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:14 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton

It's (b) (6) old job. I've thought about applying but I'm afraid they'll stick me in Lawton (and Davis) for who knows how long. I don't want to move there so, I'll be stuck footing the bill any time I spend there. What do you think?

Sounds like the vacation could have been a little better.

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector

Durant, Oklahoma

(b) (6) - Cell

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 9:24 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** Lawton

Hey (b) (6) I had a great vacation in the great state of Arkansas. A tornado touched down about 12-15 miles from Mom's place, had a flash flood and didn't see the sun for three days!

Who's relief job vacancy did they announce in Lawton? Are you going to apply?

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, OFO

CSI, IIC

Stratford, Texas

office: (b) (6)

cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 3:45:28 PM

---

One in Amarillo, Garden City, and one in Iowa.

(b) (6), CSI

Durant, Oklahoma

(b) (6) (Cell)

(580)924-2414 Ext. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Lawton

What they are referring to as pink slime has been known by the industry for years as Lean Finely Textured Beef. It's produced by some sophisticated mechanical means that separates knife trimmings into lean beef. From what I'm told...fat and connective tissue are removed and the resulting lean beef product is treated with ammonium phosphate as an anti microbial intervention. I've never seen the process or worked any place where they produce such a product. For all intents and purposes, it sounds about like the same process the poultry folks use to harvest poultry meat from carcasses. LFTB has been around for years.

I don't know anything about the plants that closed. Who are they?

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, OFO

CSI, IIC

Stratford, Texas

office: (b) (6)

cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

**From:** [Cutshall, Mary - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Hot Issues for Colorado  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:59:47 PM

---

How very clever.

Mary K. Cutshall  
Director, Emergency Coordination Staff  
Data Integration and Food Protection  
FSIS, USDA  
Room 9-140 Patriots Plaza Bldg

Mail Stop 3793  
Washington, DC 20250  
Telephone: 202-690-6523  
BB 202-255-1167  
Fax: 202-690-6459  
[mary.cutshall@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:mary.cutshall@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:19 PM  
**To:** Cutshall, Mary - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Hot Issues for Colorado

Pink Slime

(b) (6)  
*Senior Emergency Response Specialist  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Data Integration and Food Protection  
Emergency Coordination Staff  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office (b) (6)  
Cell (b) (6)  
FAX 202-690-6459  
Email (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov*

---

**From:** Cutshall, Mary - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:18 PM  
**To:** FSIS - ODIFP/ECS; FSIS - ODIFP/FDAS; FSIS - ODIFP/DAIG  
**Cc:** Nintemann, Terri - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Hot Issues for Colorado

Any issues?

Mary K. Cutshall



Director, Emergency Coordination Staff  
Data Integration and Food Protection  
FSIS,USDA  
Room 9-140 Patriots Plaza Bldg

**Mail Stop 3793**

Washington, DC 20250  
Telephone: 202-690-6523  
BB 202-255-1167  
Fax: 202-690-6459  
mary.cutshall@fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:01 PM  
**To:** FSIS - FSIS Management Council; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Nelson, Ron - FSIS; Thompson, David (DDMDO90) - FSIS; (b) (6) - NRCS; (b) (6) (DO90) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Hot Issues for Colorado

Secretary Merrigan will be traveling to Denver, Colorado. Please send any "hot Issues" to me by noon Monday, March 26.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250

Phone (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Hotline calls related to ammonia hydroxide (pink slime)/  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:37:57 PM

---

Thank you (b) (6)

Really sorry you had such a call..

I'll see if I can locate this later on the web..

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:10 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Hotline calls related to ammonia hydroxide (pink slime)/

Yes, there was something published yesterday, there were some links to it in the news and notes. It said USDA is buying the meat that McDonalds doesn't want and going to serve it to kids in the school lunch program.

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2L-248D

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:09 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Hotline calls related to ammonia hydroxide (pink slime)/

So sorry, (b) (6)

Guessing that she has seen the same video showing how 'pink slime' is made...quite inaccurately using household things like ammonia or other cleaners..

'Slurry' is a much more correct term used in the industry, as when used for sausage or hot dog processing, for example

Ok, let's keep an eye and see if more like this one is coming—did she say if it was an article or a video she saw??

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Hotline calls related to ammonia hydroxide (pink slime)/

I just got chewed out and yelled out by a "mom" who is furious over the government using "pink slime" and serving it to children in the school lunch program. I really wish her anger could be felt by the person that approved this chemical for use in food.

The bad part is there is nothing you can say to calm them down because the USDA allows it in meat. They don't care about those talking points (harmless, approved by FDA etc) that

were given to us that's really a waste of time to even try to use them.

I just had to listen and let her vent.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) **RD RN**

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](https://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: house rules for pink slime discussions  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 3:49:28 PM

---

Thanks Walinda. I am working on a meeting script now. I think AMS does want to make a mention briefly of this issue, I will reinforce this with them. I agree.

Thanks,

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science  
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-6600  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 3:39 PM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Cc:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** house rules for pink slime discussions

Hi Gerri!

I am not sure you have talking pts prepared for this week's meeting (knowing you, you do ☺.) In talking with my colleague, Dirk Fillpot, he mentioned a conversation with AMS about avoiding the "pink slime" discussion during the meeting. As part of the open for the meeting, you may wish to mention that this is *not* a discussion about the so-called pink slime issue. It is Dirk and AMS' contention that your meeting could be monopolized by this issue, so if you cut it off at the beginning, there shouldn't be an expectation that this subject will be broached. I am ccing Dirk in case he wants to jump in.

Linda

*Walinda P. "Linda" West*

Constituent Affairs  
Congressional and Public Affairs Office  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1184  
Washington, DC 20250

Direct line: (202) 720-0284

[REDACTED] 3  
(b) (6)

[REDACTED]

5704  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha... control number 7196210  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:46:57 PM

---

Just did. I will look at other one tonight  
Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:49 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha... control number 7196210

No problem. I'd rather stay out of this one. ☺

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:49 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha... control number 7196210

Oops! I only read the subject line. Yes, our expert should respond.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792  
**Submit your questions to...**

**<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>**

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:48 PM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha... control number 7196210

Jeff, can you respond since you are our pink slime expert.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:46 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha... control number 7196210

Can you respond to (b) (6) ?

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792  
Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:40 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha... control number 7196210

Can you help me respond to this question?

thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250  
Phone (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha...

Another that is LFTB-related, but a specific request about the definition of "fresh ground":



(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Ask Karen [mailto:(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:37 PM  
**To:** FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov))

#### Sender's Comment

For your response

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

#### Reference #120315-000030

**Summary:** How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/15/2012 01:47 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/15/2012 01:47 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

**Discussion Thread****Customer By Web Form**

03/15/2012 01:47 PM

How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA?

Can ground beef products that have been adulterated with "Pink Slime" (Lean Finely Textured Beef) be legally labeled as "Fresh Ground"?

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:48:36 PM

---

Don't know

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:40 PM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha...

You think it's the same person?

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

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<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:34 PM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha...

FYI

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:09 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha...

(b) (6),

For meat products, we have a Food Standards and Labeling Book entry for "Fresh" that applies. The policy would not prohibit the use of the claim "fresh" on ground beef in which lean finely textured beef is used as an ingredient.

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/larc/Policies/Labeling\\_Policy\\_Book\\_082005.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/larc/Policies/Labeling_Policy_Book_082005.pdf)

Jeff

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:33 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha...

Can you help me answer this question?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst

USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff

1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166

Washington D.C. 20250

Phone (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:52 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: How is the term "Fresh Ground" defined by the USDA? Can ground beef products tha...

Another that is LFTB-related, but a specific request about the definition of "fresh ground":

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S

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(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) @gmail.com on behalf of [Chris Berry](#)  
**To:** [Tarrant, Jeff - Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Huffington Post: Feds Buying 7 Million Pounds Of "Pink Slime" For School Lunches  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 9:22:49 PM

---

Yeah, that's the way politics work for environment and education too... Things are mostly good. There's a bit of uncertainty with both of our jobs, which is a bit unsettling... but - given the state of the world - we shouldn't complain. Bob had a heart attack about a month ago - which was REALLY unsettling, but seems to be on the mend now. Otis is growing up and threatens to be better behaved than his sister Winni (who's now 5) in short order... not to mention dominating her in frisbee and most other games... How are things with you and su familia?

Btw, (b) (6) was asking about you on Facebook. Should I give her your email or... are you (gasp) going to join the social networking revolution one of these days and "friend" her?!

On Tue, Mar 6, 2012 at 9:03 AM, Tarrant, Jeff - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
<[Jeff.Tarrant@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Jeff.Tarrant@fsis.usda.gov)> wrote:

Ah yes... Soy lent Pink (a term coined by Carl Custer, a colleague of mine). It's junk... Of course, the school lunch program accepted it. Because it's cheap and the old political appointees from the G.W. Bush administration told the scientists to approve it. Now, we have a new administration, but you can't change the school lunch program too much (like restricting sodium or French fries in the menu), or the congressmen/women from food producing states will lock up money/decisions on the hill (that's the way they punish wayward scientist and professionals).....

So, how's things on the Berry/Harper farm?

Jeff Tarrant  
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service  
USDA - Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Outreach, Employee Education and Training  
Washington, DC 20024  
Tel: [202.690.6497](tel:202.690.6497)  
Email: [jeff.tarrant@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:jeff.tarrant@fsis.usda.gov)

*"Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes age just shows up all by itself."*

Tom Wilson

---

**From:** Chris Berry [mailto:(b) (6) @gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** Tarrant, Jeff - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Harry Robert Harper  
**Subject:** Huffington Post: Feds Buying 7 Million Pounds Of 'Pink Slime' For School Lunches

Ick....

 [\*\*Feds Buying 7 Million Pounds Of 'Pink Slime' For School Lunches\*\*](#)  
[Pink slime -- that ammonia-treated meat in a bright Pepto-bismol shade -- may have been rejected by fast food joints like McDonald's, Taco Bell and...](#)

Sent from my iPhone...please excuse my brevity and typos!

-Chris Berry

(b) (6)

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--

Chris Berry

(b) (6)

**From:** [Hubbard, Amy](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: I should have mentioned when I spoke with you earlier...  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:27:19 AM

---

Yeah, I was looking and couldn't figure a way to wedge it in but I think it will fit somewhere !

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS [mailto:Dirk.Fillpot@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:25 AM  
**To:** Hubbard, Amy  
**Subject:** RE: I should have mentioned when I spoke with you earlier...

Thanks! Granted, wouldn't go with the whole "pink slime" story, but if you see that it's worth a brief, that would really help spread the word in LA.

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Hubbard, Amy [mailto:Amy.Hubbard@latimes.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:20 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: I should have mentioned when I spoke with you earlier...

Oh that's very cool, thank you!

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS [mailto:Dirk.Fillpot@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 7:57 AM  
**To:** Hubbard, Amy  
**Subject:** I should have mentioned when I spoke with you earlier...

Were you aware of this? We're hopeful that people will learn about them so they can sign up to receive information about food recalls when they need that info (especially since recalls can and often happen after regular working hours or on weekends).

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/NR\\_030112\\_03/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_030112_03/index.asp)

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: IBP  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 6:32:28 AM

---

Well BPI employees are on a two week hold they will get paid up to that time after that they will know if operations will resume or not, this was part of my duties when working on the fabrication side and they are still going to run the tallow operation and all we do there is the proper labeling edible, unedible or technical. I seen a news report last night about the "pink slime" and BPI is fighting back and all the plants were shut down and mention all the big customers they had. This operation used to run on 7 days a week so I feel for the people but don't mind if it goes away. But I guess will see in a couple of weeks the final results.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:55 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: IBP

It's the news media. Apparently there is a U-Tube that shows some guy with meat in his hand and pouring household ammonia on it and mixing the meat saying that is what we do in the packing house. They are calling the tissue rendered product "Pink Slime" and have pictures of pink ground product. Our low-temp rendering (tissue) is shutting down after today too. I thought they were talking about the Blood Plasma System you cover. Is it at Sublette and do you cover it as part of your duties?

Since the product is used primarily in ground beef they will have to do something to meet the demand for the ground beef. I don't know what the percentage actually was but it was pretty high. That's why the fast food burgers had no flavor like the. The Angus ground beef did not allow it to be put in so that is why the push for Angus Beef ads in all the fast foods. They really are a better product but now without the tissue they should all taste alike.

This is what I understand of the issues.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 6:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: IBP

Hi (b) (6) Yes the initials are wrong but the rumor is right BPI (Beef Products Inc.) is closing down as of today all I know is they got bad publicity and all the customers dropped them immediately. I talked to the QA supervisor Friday he said they will know more today because the people from corporate in South Dakota are meeting here about 8:00 am so

will see.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 10:46 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** IBP

I hope I have the initials right. Hearing that it closed but also heard it was because of OSHA. What's the scoop?

**From:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:06:47 PM

---

No problem.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:01 PM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

Thank you very much. I apologize for send so many this morning. We have received a lot of new inquiries this week.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:59:15 PM

---

We could answer with current policy but note that the agency is reviewing that policy. If a decision is made while the drafts are in clearance, we would have to shift gears. I would bounce that approach off of LPDD to see if they are comfortable with it.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:57 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

FYI. I wonder if we should go ahead and answer with current policy? I have three similar letters.  
Thanks.

(b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:11 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

We are still waiting for a decision from the OA. We'll let you know when we get that feedback.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792  
Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:10 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

Just checking to see if there has been any decision. Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

Hopefully today or tomorrow. Dan seemed to want to make a decision quickly.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:55 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

Any idea how long it will be before we can talk about the claim? Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:54 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round" , or "ground sirloin" , is it corre...

Well, actually the answer is NO, just saying ground round instead of ground beef does NOT ensure there is no finely textured beef. It just means that any finely textured beef would have to come exclusively from the Round. Same with Angus ground beef, it can contain finely textured beef, but it would all be from angus.

We are currently looking at the possibility of making a negative claim.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:01 PM

**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round" , or "ground sirloin" , is it corre...

Thank you very much. I apologize for send so many this morning. We have received a lot of new inquiries this week.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:59 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round" , or "ground sirloin" , is it corre...

(b) (6)

We are waiting for a response back from Dan on whether to allow such claims on labels. We'll respond when we get a yes or no from him.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

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Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_Fsis/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:58 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

Hello,

Can one of your staff provide information? We now have at least two such inquiries. Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

#### Sender's Comment

please see the attached.

thank you

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@verizon.net

**First Name:**

**Last Name:**

**Type:**

**Title:**

#### Reference #120322-000066

**Summary:** If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 03/22/2012 11:16 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/22/2012 11:16 PM

**Status:** Unresolved  
**Assigned:**  
**Country:**  
**State:**  
**First Time Chatting?:**

### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

03/22/2012 11:16 PM

If a label says "ground chuck" , "gound round", or "ground sirloin", is it correct to assume there is no " finely texured lean beef" or "pink slime" in the product?  
Thanks.



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:55:07 PM

---

Great – thanks for confirming w/ them.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
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(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:54 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

I will go ahead and prepare responses to the 3 letters I have. They should be to you tomorrow.  
Thanks.

(b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round", or "ground sirloin", is it corre...

That is what I would do. It may be an issue that Dan needs to raise to AI or the Undersecretary.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:49 PM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round" , or "ground sirloin" , is it corre...

I know that it can take OA quite a while to decide on an issue. Should we just go ahead and answer the letters that refer to Ground chuck, ground sirloin, etc. with the current policy, saying that we are currently considering the issue? Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:11 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: If a label says "ground chuck" , "ground round" , or "ground sirloin" , is it corre...

We are still waiting for a decision from the OA. We'll let you know when we get that feedback.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792  
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<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: IMG00054-20120326-1559.jpg  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:35:07 AM

---

AWWWHHHHH

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: IMG00054-20120326-1559.jpg

We think you should take one of those weekends with us!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:31 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: IMG00054-20120326-1559.jpg

What a video that squirrel would've made!! Sounds like you got a good lawn tractor. The big cutting deck will make short time of it. I was cutting grass around 5:00 so we were doing the same thing at the same time.

I'm camping out at Schenk today to start documenting Danishanko and work through approving a religious beef and poultry slaughter recommendation/application, along with a myriad of issues. Yes I have the countdown monitored, only 40 more weekends.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:41 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: IMG00054-20120326-1559.jpg

Good morning!

No, no, no...am not eating the chickens. The ducks, however, have grown nice and plump....mmmm. JOKING again.

Bought 2 new gates for the pasture last night along with the super Cub Cadet. 26 HP and a 54" cutting deck. It has the big tires on the back and went up the hill by the house with ease. Was cutting grass at 8:30 last night! What a blast.

Sorry to hear Danishanko is still stirring the pot. Keep the countdown going. It will all be over with soon enough.

The dogs finally came across a big fat brown squirrel in the yard. I wish I had a video. The squirrel, either being too fat or too stupid, did not know which tree to climb and ran in circles in the yard with the dogs on her tail. The dogs were confused since the squirrel stayed on the ground. The whole time the dogs are chasing the squirrel, Kes never dropped the Frisbee. It looked like a circus act. We almost had squirrel to put on the egg.

I hope today is a better day. I'll be thinking of you.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:40 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: RE: IMG00054-20120326-1559.jpg

The egg and poultry, hmmm seems like it fits like a hand and a glove. You'd probably find pink slime more appetizing. Keep their little light on so they are snuggled in.

Kind of a crappy start to the week. Danishanko has caused a lot of problems that must be dealt with. I will pace and prioritize though. Hope you have a good week and the chicks and ducks realize who they are. Miss you!!

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS

Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:06 AM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: RE: IMG00054-20120326-1559.jpg

Wow - stuff does grow bigger out there! Weather turned chilly yesterday and cold last night, so had to tuck in the chicks and ducks. They can't quite reach the nesting boxes yet, so I gave them boxes on the ground stuffed with straw. They seemed fine this morning. The chicks have most of their feathers and the ducks are still downy with a few feather tips coming in on their tails. They are growing exponentially now! Hmmm...time to fire up the egg....JOKING!

Hope your week is off to a good start. Don't work too hard - remember the countdown!

Miss you!!!!!!!

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS

Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 4:00 PM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: IMG00054-20120326-1559.jpg

Here's the big gal

-----

Sent using BlackBerry

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Important: FS.gov Ed Board Mtg on 2/9 at 3:30 (1-866-(b) (2) , passcode (b) (2) -- TODAY  
**Date:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 4:27:40 PM

---

Ha!

(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS/FSES  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
(office) (b) (6)  
(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 3:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Important: FS.gov Ed Board Mtg on 2/9 at 3:30 (1-866-(b) (2) , passcode (b) (2) ) -- TODAY

Sounds like it will be a long(er) meeting. I don't think I will mention the pink slime issue, we didn't get a lot of calls and I don't want to write a blog about it

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 2:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Important: FS.gov Ed Board Mtg on 2/9 at 3:30 (1-866-(b) (2) , passcode (b) (2) ) -- TODAY

I already pulled a couple of things from the weekly report

(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS/FSES  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
(office) (b) (6)  
(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 2:46 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Important: FS.gov Ed Board Mtg on 2/9 at 3:30 (1-866-(b) (2), passcode (b) (2) -- TODAY

- Is there anything in the weekly report we should mention?
- Recalls? All of our recalls have been related to hard boiled eggs which I'm sure will be discussed by FDA.
- What about the "pink slime" calls the Hotline received last week (from the announcement that McDonalds was going to stop using burgers processed with it)?

(b) (6) RD RN  
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5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 2:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Important: FS.gov Ed Board Mtg on 2/9 at 3:30 (1-866-(b) (2), passcode (b) (2) -- TODAY  
**Importance:** High

What do we have to talk about today in the updates?

(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
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5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
(office) (b) (6)  
(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) (HHS/ASPA/WCD) [mailto:(b) (6)@hhs.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 1:50 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)

[REDACTED]

(b) (6)

- FSIS

**Subject:** Important: FS.gov Ed Board Mtg on 2/9 at 3:30 (1-866-(b) (2) , passcode (b) (2) --  
TODAY

**Importance:** High

Hello all,

We have a fair amount of things to discuss today, so please make sure to have at least one person on the call from each agency at 3:30pm. I've attached the new blog/features calendar.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

### GoToMtg Info./ Conference Call Info.

1. Please join my meeting.

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/join/419757574>

Meeting ID: 419-757-574

2. Join the conference call:

CC: 1-866-(b) (2)

Passcode: (b) (2)

### Agency updates

- CDC:
- FDA:
- USDA:

### FS.gov updates (since 1 /26)

- Recalls, Allergy Alerts, Investigations:
  - CDC:
  - FDA:
    1. RECALL: Turkey & Ham Sandwiches
    2. RECALL: Chocolate Raisins
    3. RECALL: Vitaflo Renastart
    4. ALLERGY ALERT: Fudge Peanut Butter
    5. RECALL: Eggs
    6. RECALL: Dried Yellow Croaker
    7. RECALL: Sardine Anchovies
    8. RECALL: Dog Food
    9. RECALL: Tremella
    10. RECALL: Prepared foods with Eggs
    11. RECALL: Salads
    12. RECALL: Cobb Salad
    13. RECALL: Sandwiches with Eggs

- 14. RECALL: Cobb & Spinach Salads
- 15. RECALL: Jam & Peanut Butter Snacks
- 16. RECALL: Chicken Salad
- 17. RECALL: Egg Salad Sandwich
- 18. RECALL: Egg Spread, Sandwiches, & Salad
- USDA:
  - 1. RECALL: Chicken Salad
- Feature:
  - Super Bowl
  - Valentine's Day
- Blog:
  - Is OJ Safe to Drink?
  - Super Bowl
  - Valentine's Day
- News updates:
  - [Investigation Update: Multistate Outbreak of Human Salmonella Typhimurium Infections Linked to Ground Beef](#) (February 1, 2012)
- Tweets and FB:
  - [#OUTBREAK](#) Multistate Outbreak of [#Salmonella](#) Enteritidis Infections Linked to [#Restaurant](#) Chain A [go.usa.gov/nZ8](#) [#foodsafety](#)
  - For [#outbreak](#) info. check the Foodborne Diseases Centers for Outbreak Response Enhancement (FoodCORE) site [go.usa.gov/nZN](#) [#foodsafety](#)
  - Investigation Update: Human [#Salmonella](#) Typhimurium Infections Associated with Microbiology Labs. [go.usa.gov/nZU](#) [#foodsafety](#)
  - BLOG: Is OJ Safe to Drink? [go.usa.gov/n59](#) [#foodsafety](#) [#OJ](#)
  - [#EdNet](#) January 2012 Edition of The National Food Safety Educator's Network newsletter [go.usa.gov/n5H](#) [#foodsafety](#)
  - BLOG: Is your food safe to eat for the big game? [#foodsafety](#) for Superbowl Sunday & a special recipe - [ow.ly/8N1FW](#)
  - RT @[USDAFoodSafety](#): MANNING a [#SB46](#) party? Successful party [#foodsafety](#) starts with a clean surface [go.usa.gov/nkL](#) [#eli](#) [#foodsafetySB](#)
  - RT @[USDAFoodSafety](#): No RUSHING. Safely thaw meats b4 cooking & prevent illness at [#SB46](#) parties. Thawing tips: [go.usa.gov/nkR](#)...
  - RT @[USDAFoodSafety](#): Press Release: Score a [#FoodSafety](#) Touchdown at Your [#SuperBowl](#) XLVI Party [go.usa.gov/nob](#) [#SB46](#) [#FoodSafeSB](#)
  - Don't just "wing it" at your [#SB46](#) party! Have a food safe [#superbowl](#) with these tips & our bonus recipe - [go.usa.gov/nLp](#) [#foodsafety](#)



- BLOG: Cupid is Coming! Tips for a Romantic—and Safe—Dinner [#foodsafety #valentinesday](http://go.usa.gov/Qgy)

### Assignments:

- Blogs:
  - Cook It Safe! (POC: Kathy/USDA) – **Due February 10**
  - Food Safety for At Risk Populations (POC: Howard/FDA) – **Due February 24**

### Discussion items (for today's meeting):

- Food Safety Campaigns on FS.gov
  - Food Safe Families/Cook It Safe!/Check Your Steps
    - The Ask
    - Future Campaigns
    - Location & Next Steps
- Billboard:
  - Ideas for after Valentine's Day
- Org. Chart & Contact List update:
  - Any updates??
- Blog:
  - Any new topics to add to ideas or evergreens
- FS Visit Dates:
  - FDA:
    - College Park
    - White Oak
  - USDA:
    - D.C.
    - Beltsville

### Alison Amor

*Public Affairs Specialist/ Web Content Manager*  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs  
Department of Health and Human Services  
[www.foodsafety.gov](http://www.foodsafety.gov)  
[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: In the News  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:06:38 AM

---

Thanks again for this info Monty.

Leave it to the Ms.Wenonah Hauter, executive director of FWW to expose what this agency is doing.

Are the same people that approved the pink slime mess!

Less inspectors = more food safety!!!

Who made that one up, if they believe that, I have a Brooklyn bridge for sale too, cheap only 10,000!!!

P.S we are now getting together all the N.E. Presidents to go to DC and protest HIMP elimination of GS 7 line inspectors.

I'll get back to you with a date ASAP.

Thank you!

(b) (6)

USDA FSIS CSI 65-14

Long Island NY.

Email address; (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

Thomas Jefferson quotation;

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:06 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: In the News - FSIS

(b) (6)

USDA/FSIS/FO

Consumer Safety Inspector-Relief

Member Lawrence District EEOAC

Monett, MO.

Lawrence District

e-mail - (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

cell - (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 1:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Berhow, Trent - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: In the News

## Government Agencies

# House Panel Debates New Poultry Inspection Rule

by [Helena Bottemiller](#) | Mar 09, 2012

A proposal to reform poultry inspection that would shift quality and deflect oversight away from U.S. Department of Agriculture inspectors toward the companies processing the birds has come under heavy criticism by Washington, DC-based Food & Water Watch. On Thursday, the debate spilled over into an agriculture appropriations hearing in the House.

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >> USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is responsible for examining all poultry carcasses for blemishes or visible defects before they are further processed. Under the proposed rule, the agency would hand this over to the poultry plant in order to devote more FSIS inspectors to evaluating the company's pathogen-prevention plans and bacteria-testing programs.

The HACCP Based Inspection Models Project (HIMP), which is voluntary, moves inspectors down the line -- to right before the chiller -- to make sure there's no fecal material on the birds, or no other food safety defects, before they take the plunge into the cooling bath.

According to a [peer-reviewed risk assessment](#), HIMP would save FSIS \$85- to \$95 million over the next three years and be a \$250 million boost to poultry companies, which will be able to crank up line speeds and process birds at a faster pace, all while reducing 5,200 poultry-caused illnesses each year. The plan is aimed at improving food safety, but some consumer groups are skeptical about the initiative.

On the eve of a House appropriations subcommittee meeting on FSIS' budget, Food & Water Watch released its [analysis of over 5,000 documents](#), received under a Freedom of Information Act request, that shows company inspectors routinely miss defects at plants currently operating under the HIMP pilot.

FWW said they found that company employees often miss quality defects like "feathers, lungs, oil glands, trachea and bile still on the carcass."

Their analysis found that the average error rate for these types of defect in chicken slaughter facilities was 64 percent and 87 percent in turkey slaughter facilities. And for one turkey slaughter facility, nearly 100 percent of samples found this category of defect. FWW also found that the vast majority of non-compliance records filed for the 14 plants under the pilot was for "fecal contamination found on the carcasses." Out of 229 NRs filed from March to August 2011, 208 (90 percent) were for visible fecal contamination that was missed by company employees.

"Based on the data coming out of the plants where this privatized inspection scheme is already in place, it is unacceptable for USDA to try to expand this program to more plants," said Wenonah Hauter, executive director of FWW.

During the appropriations hearing, Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) questioned Under Secretary Elisabeth Hagen about the proposed rule.

"I really am concerned about this transition to HIMP," said DeLauro. "I'm trying to get some sense of what this means ... because the descriptions from some of the inspectors already looking at what's happening and not happening, and I can get that to you, about what they're finding: fecal matter, and this is prior to going to the chiller... what they're finding feathers, bile, etc. is pretty gross."

Hagen insisted that FSIS is simply trying to modernize an outdated and inefficient poultry inspection system to lower the incidence of foodborne illness.

"This rule is about food safety and it's about modernizing," she said. "The commitment I made when I came into this job was that we would look at the way we do things and we would find ways to do things better than we have done before. And that's what this is about. It's about safer food for consumers."

DeLauro asked how the agency estimated the rule would prevent 5,200 illnesses.

"That figure comes from the risk assessment itself," said Hagen. "When we looked at this rule we looked at it from a commonsense standpoint: having people focused on the things that matter most in food safety in 2012. We looked at our experience with the HIMP model in which we have plants performing better than they're performing in the non-HIMP style, in terms of contamination rate and meaningful performance standards."

The data was used to project a public health impact and it was estimated the rule would prevent 5,200 illnesses annually. Hagen said about 1,000 of those illnesses would be caused by Salmonella and 1,000 by Campylobacter.

Regarding concerns about increasing line speeds at processing plants, Hagen noted that FSIS is going outside its statutory mission to also look at the rule's impact on worker safety.

"Our first concern is food safety. If we have the opportunity to modernize the system and produce a safer product, we will do that, but we are concerned about unintended consequences that might occur because of this modernization. That's why we've partnered with NIOSH [The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health], we've been in discussion with OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health Administration]. We're going to take these findings very seriously."

© Food Safety News

[More Headlines from Government Agencies »](#)

(b) (6), SCS

USDA, FSIS, FO

Tyson Foods Inc. P-18873

1151 East Pine Street

Vienna, GA 31092

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 229-268-8503

Hours of Work: 1530 - 2400

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Incentivizing pre-harvest practices  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:16:49 PM

---

(b) (6)

Monday at 3 pm or later is about all I have available. I'm here until 6 pm if that helps.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: Incentivizing pre-harvest practices

Thanks, (b) (6) Do Monday or Tuesday of next week work for your schedule? (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Incentivizing pre-harvest practices

(b) (6)

I'm out Friday. If it can wait until early next week, that would be best. If not, just call me tomorrow anytime you have a chance.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: Incentivizing pre-harvest practices

(b) (6)

Do you have any time Friday. I'm out tomorrow but could always call you if tomorrow still works best.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 12:27 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Incentivizing pre-harvest practices

That would be good. Thursday looks best for me as I have a lot of Pink Slime issues still taking a lot of my time. Should die down by midweek, I hope.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 11:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** Incentivizing pre-harvest practices

(b) (6)

I am on a workgroup here in FSIS that is working on preharvest food safety items, including discussions about how to incentivize best practices by the industry. At this morning's meeting, I mentioned that AMS would likely be a valuable partner is discussing this matter with us. If you have time this week I can call or stop by to update you.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Office of Field Operations  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
South Building, Room 3803  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington DC 20250-3700  
Tel (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 690-3287

**From:** [Amber Hunter](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: info  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 3:45:16 PM

---

funny! Was that chicken mixed with pink slime? Yikes

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tue 2/28/2012 3:25 PM  
**To:** Amber Hunter  
**Subject:** info



#### **My Favorite Animal**

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken." She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right, because everyone else laughed. My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal. I told my dad what happened, and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA.

He said they love animals very much. I do, too. Especially chicken, pork and beef. Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office. I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again.

The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favorite live animal was. I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken.

She sent me back to the principal's office. He laughed, and told me not to do it again.

I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am.



**Today, my teacher asked us to tell her what famous person we admire most. I told her, "Colonel Sanders." Guess where I am now...**

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**From:** [Amber Hunter](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: info  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 5:02:06 PM

---

Still yucky, I won't eat fast food burgers anymore! Deer meat for me thanks. No answer to #2 question, oh well.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Fri 2/3/2012 4:45 PM  
**To:** Amber Hunter  
**Subject:** info

## McDonald's Drops 'Pink Slime' From Hamburger Meat

By [Josh Sanburn](#) | [@joshsanburn](#) | February 1, 2012 | [21](#)

[in Share](#) 29



PAUL J. RICHARDS / AFP / GETTY IMAGES

*A partially eaten McDonald's hamburger that may have been cooked with "pink slime."*

For years, the world's leading fast-food chain used a "pink slime" as beef filler for its burgers in the U.S. After a campaign by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver, McDonald's has abandoned the goo.

Oliver, who stars in his own TV show "Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution," has been campaigning for months to get fast-food chains to stop using the pink slime, which is technically discarded beef cuts [treated with ammonium hydroxide](#).

(**MORE:** [Cheers! Increase in Liquor Sales Bodes Well for Economic Recovery](#))

While it's approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it's still rather stomach-turning. The goo became better known after Oliver highlighted it on his show, demonstrating how it's made from scraps that are soaked in ammonium hydroxide and then ground into a pinkish form that looks something like hamburger meat.

McDonald's has confirmed that it has stopped use the stuff, even as *The Daily* has reported that [the Agriculture Department plans to buy 7 million pounds of it](#) for public school cafeterias in the next several months.

McDonald's recently released a statement saying that at the beginning of last year, "we made a decision to discontinue to the use of ammonia-treated beef in our hamburgers," but it has only been widely reported within the last few days. McDonald's denies that Oliver's show had anything to do with halting the practice, and it does appear that they stopped using it before Oliver's show aired in April.

Read more: <http://moneyland.time.com/2012/02/01/mcdonalds-drops-pink-slime-from-hamburger-meat/?iid=pf-main-lede#ixzz1lMEWeqSo>

---

**From:** Amber Hunter [mailto:(b) (6)@chhi.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 9:25 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime?

I have two questions for you.

1. What in the world is this pink slime being talked about in meats in like McDonalds and other fast food places.
2. Is there a possibility I could get a phone call around valentines? It's been almost a year since we've even spoke on the phone. I would enjoy that.

I have to tell you, I'm so disappointed in that pink slime thingy. I love a big mac a couple times a year and now I won't even eat fast food anymore. Yuck. Your thoughts....

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: info  
**Date:** Saturday, February 04, 2012 1:10:50 PM

---

I first saw this process in a cannery... ingredients and ground pork were mixed overnight... the ingredients broke the ground pork down into meat gel, which filled the voids between the chunks and when cooked in the process solidified into a solid meat~ish substance that was bonded to the chunks and sliced and cooked well... Eat it son, it's good for you!

There... it's not exactly pink slime, but I just coined the phrases meat gel and meat~ish... see I could be on TV too!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 5:43 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: info

Gross.....

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 3:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** info

I was asked about this and had no idea so looked it up. I think this article contains some exaggerations but still it's kind of sick to think about how much stuff is added to commercially prepared foods. We don't even really know what we are eating anymore and yet there will be a line out to the street to get it.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: info  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 2:51:01 PM

---

I might plant a garden this year. Small but rewarding.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 7:33 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: info

I do not know if I could be a vegan, in any sense of the word. I do know that I have no interest in lunch meats. If I can always afford it, it will be whole muscle meats. No fabricated, processed junk. Fruits & veggies, yep.

The prices of good for you foods is rising. Diabetes is rampant – yes, from sedentary lifestyles but also from the point that folks just don't have the money and/or a literally clueless about how serious diabetes really is.

Parents with a family have hungry bellies to feed. Very scary to see yourself on food stamps and have a sick child that is in need of costly medical care, but you can't afford to miss a day of work at your job to take them to the doctor (which you may not be able to afford) because they will let you go – since there's 50 other folks out there, ready to take over your job.

I apologize. Off the subject, I know. God provided us with good, natural foods, not perverted, not processed, just simple and best. Believe what you will, don't you think that foods in their natural form are best? OK. I stop now. ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 3:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: info

I'm trying to limit meat but as you know that's kind of hard around here. It's all junk!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 5:57 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: info

True! I had somebody last week show me and ask me about it. "Is this what is really in it?" I also thought the article was something else. At the very least, everyone should be asking and finding out what exactly is in the food they eat, products they drink.

Knowledge is power.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 5:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** info

I was asked about this and had no idea so looked it up. I think this article contains some exaggerations but still it's kind of sick to think about how much stuff is added to commercially prepared foods. We don't even really know what we are eating anymore and yet there will be a line out to the street to get it.

## McDonald's Drops 'Pink Slime' From Hamburger Meat

By [Josh Sanburn](#) | [@joshsanburn](#) | February 1, 2012 | [21](#)

[inShare29](#)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

Paul J. Richards / AFP / Getty Images

*A partially eaten McDonald's hamburger that may have been cooked with "pink slime."*

For years, the world's leading fast-food chain used a "pink slime" as beef filler for its burgers in the U.S. After a campaign by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver, McDonald's has abandoned the goo.

Oliver, who stars in his own TV show "Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution," has been campaigning for months to get fast-food chains to stop using the pink slime, which is technically discarded beef cuts [treated with ammonium hydroxide](#).

**(MORE: [Cheers! Increase in Liquor Sales Bodes Well for Economic Recovery](#))**

While it's approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it's still rather stomach-turning. The goo became better known after Oliver highlighted it on his show, demonstrating how it's made from scraps that are soaked in ammonium hydroxide and then ground into a pinkish form that looks something like hamburger meat.

McDonald's has confirmed that it has stopped use the stuff, even as *The Daily* has reported that [the Agriculture Department plans to buy 7 million pounds of it](#) for public school cafeterias in the next several months.

McDonald's recently released a statement saying that at the beginning of last year, "we made a decision to discontinue to the use of ammonia-treated beef in our hamburgers," but it has only been widely reported within the last few days.

McDonald's denies that Oliver's show had anything to do with halting the practice, and it does appear that they stopped using it before Oliver's show aired in April.

Read more: <http://moneyland.time.com/2012/02/01/mcdonalds-drops-pink-slime-from-hamburger-meat/?iid=pf-main-lede#ixzz1lMEWeqSo>

**From:** [Amber Hunter](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: info  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 8:39:12 AM

---

WTF? Love you. It actually looks a great recipe. I've been hankerin' for a chicken taco. Not Taco Bell though, they use pink slime too. So does Wendy's. You can't trust anybody else to cook your food anymore. It's disgusting. Well, you never said anything about my YMCA story....wasn't it a hoot?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wed 2/29/2012 1:32 AM  
**To:** Amber Hunter  
**Subject:** info

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: info  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 6:05:28 PM

---

Funny time for everyone to start complaining – the economy sucks and beef is at an all time high of 1.75 to 2.00 a pound for fat cattle. Crazy.

Guess they all make more money than I do. I'll just buy chicken, with all the yucky slime and Salmonella, on the entire carcass and eat that! Doesn't bother me a bit!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 4:00 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: info

Yep, That is so true. All those TV dinners. Major changes on the horizon. Too bad about all those plants closing. Guess we will need more farmers to produce more beef. Probably won't be exporting as much beef to other countries now since we will need it here. I better go buy up all those unhealthy TV dinners before they get more expensive. Darn I really like the 86 cents Banquet dinners.

I guess all those people who drink and smoke will need to cut back so they can afford the healthy hamburger.

(b) (6), IIC, CSI

**BOISE CIRCUIT**

1-(b) (6)

**I AM NOT YOUR ROLLING WHEELS, I AM THE HIGHWAY, I AM NOT YOUR  
CARPET RIDE, I AM THE SKY, I AM NOT YOUR BLOWING WIND, I AM THE  
LIGHTNING, I AM NOT YOUR AUTUMN MOON, I AM THE NIGHT.**

**AUDIOSLAVE**

**REAL EYES, REALIZE, REAL LIES**

**UKN**

NEVER MAKE SOMEONE A PRIORITY WHEN YOU ARE ONLY AN OPTION FOR THEM.

UKN

A LIE CAN MAKE IT HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD BEFORE TRUTH HAS TIME TO PUT IT'S PANTS ON.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 5:54 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: info

Yah, and ground beef which is where most of the Lean Beef was going contains a lot of crap already. Tendons/ligaments/scrap pieces of meat. All plants trim as close to the bone as they can so in reality we all have been eating something close to pink slime for years.

Lot of PDCB also used in frozen foods – burritos/pizza toppings/etc. YUM!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 3:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: info

I agree. The problem with this is that the public is going to lose a load when they find out how much more this is going to cost them. They thought ground meat was expensive before it is going to go through the roof. Know more chubs. It will set some of these mom and pop plants up nicely since most of them that I know of don't use any fillers, but then their meat is more expensive. We pay for quality.

(b) (6), IIC, CSI

BOISE CIRCUIT

1-(b) (6)

I AM NOT YOUR ROLLING WHEELS, I AM THE HIGHWAY, I AM NOT YOUR  
CARPET RIDE, I AM THE SKY, I AM NOT YOUR BLOWING WIND, I AM THE  
LIGHTNING, I AM NOT YOUR AUTUMN MOON, I AM THE NIGHT.

AUDIOSLAVE

REAL EYES, REALIZE, REAL LIES

UKN

NEVER MAKE SOMEONE A PRIORITY WHEN YOU ARE ONLY AN OPTION  
FOR THEM.

UKN

A LIE CAN MAKE IT HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD BEFORE TRUTH HAS  
TIME TO PUT IT'S PANTS ON.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 5:45 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: info

Yep, they did. About 2 or 3 months ago most of their buyers that used it got wind of the pink slime issue and stopped using it. Guess they saw the writing on the wall and decided to get ahead of the press! Smart.

Guess BPI, which was making 90% of it, was calling them trying to sell some more and lowered the price considerably. They couldn't buy it because their buyers didn't want it anymore. BPI told them that they have shut like 75% of their plants as no one is buying the stuff anymore.

When I worked for ConAgra they made the PDCB (partially defatted chopped beef) – neat process really. The bones (minus the skeletal bones (backbone, etc)) went into a big heated centrifuge. It spun around and took all the meat off the bones. The heat melted

the fat and drained most of it away. When I was there I don't think they were adding any antimicrobial to it (not required back then), but could have been putting a little Citric Acid on it as we used that in the plant a lot on other meat products. The Lean Beef that SSI was using is the ammoniated product but PBCB only allows Citric/Lactic I think.

If the public knew about all the antimicrobials industry uses now they'd probably crap a brick. Out of sight out of mind. That Lean beef is no worse than using shank meat full of tendon/ligament) in ground beef and also spraying Lactic acid on it!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 3:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** info

Hey girl,

I was just wondering how this pink slime issue is affecting SSI since we know that they used the ammonia treated product in the hamburgers they produce. At least I think they do.

(b) (6), IIC, CSI

BOISE CIRCUIT

1-(b) (6)

I AM NOT YOUR ROLLING WHEELS, I AM THE HIGHWAY, I AM NOT YOUR  
CARPET RIDE, I AM THE SKY, I AM NOT YOUR BLOWING WIND, I AM THE  
LIGHTNING, I AM NOT YOUR AUTUMN MOON, I AM THE NIGHT.

AUDIOSLAVE

REAL EYES, REALIZE, REAL LIES

UKN

NEVER MAKE SOMEONE A PRIORITY WHEN YOU ARE ONLY AN OPTION  
FOR THEM.

UKN

A LIE CAN MAKE IT HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD BEFORE TRUTH HAS

[REDACTED]

ANTS ON. [REDACTED]

WINSTON CHURCHILL

[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: information  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:53:23 PM

---

fascinating....thanks (b) (6)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS" (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>  
**To:** (b) (6) ix.netcom.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:56 PM

**Subject:** information

The link below provides information regarding lean finely textured beef (pink slime).

<http://www.meatami.com/ht/a/GetDocumentAction/i/76184>

Regards,

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector  
San Jose, CA  
USDA, FSIS, OFO

(b) (6) @usda.gov



*Consider the environment. Please don't print this e-mail unless you need it.*

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: interesting article  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:21:00 AM

---

(b) (6) so funny you bring this up! I will forward you the facts! There is a lot of misinformation going on here. Let me straighten it out with my next email to you and the team. It has been all over the national news, no doubt.

Knowledge is power and you are about to get the facts! Thanks for bringing this up, good job!

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** interesting article

Doc, something interesting. Over the weekend, I read an article about "pink slime." Heard of that? Some guy asked me about it down at the LDS cannery last week. I had never heard the term. Apparently when meat (beef, chicken or whatever... this is talking about mechanically separated product... so products like hotdogs, chicken nuggets, etc.) Anyway when this meat is salvaged, it is finely ground with other items like tendons, eyeballs, stuff that would generally be disposed of....food coloring is added, also ammonia is added to kill bacteria. The product then has a lot of artificial flavoring added because of the ammonia. The ammonia is not listed as an ingredient on the label. Apparently the USDA has approved this whole thing. Disgusting. Basically, they are turning dog food into people food. If you want me to, I'll locate the article and email it to you.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Interesting article  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 12:11:08 PM

---

Thanks (b) (6) ...yeah, the story is very one sided. The PHIS task file is very helpful. How is the family?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:29 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Interesting article

(b) (6) I came across an interesting article that is a result of the “pink slime” that’s been in the news lately. The author views are clearly “one sided”, but there are still some interesting things in the article.

I have also attached a pretty good guide to the PHIS tasks. This helps find the information needed to correctly perform the tasks that might be questionable.

I hope you and your family are all doing well, and maybe we will meet again soon.

(b) (6)

<< File: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized.htm >> << File: PHIS Task Library 6\_29\_11.pdf >>



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: interesting  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 3:02:17 PM

---

Probably he is looking for a job ;)

*Thank You,*

(b) (6)

(b) (6) **Ph.D.**

**Senior Microbiologist**

**USDA/FSIS/OIA/IES**

**Tel:** (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 3:01 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: interesting

☺ GZ rises again!

(b) (6), DVM, MS

USDA FSIS

International Equivalence Staff

Room 2940-S

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2012 3:12 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: interesting

*Thank You,*

(b) (6)

(b) (6) **Ph.D.**

**Senior Microbiologist**

**USDA/FSIS/OIA/IES**

**Tel:** (b) (6)

---

**From:** Eblen, Denise - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2012 3:02 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Shaw, William - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** interesting

**US: Partners in 'slime'**

05.mar.12

The Daily

David Knowles

<http://www.thedaily.com/page/2012/03/05/030512-news-pink-slime-1-3/>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's continued purchase of so-called pink slime for school lunches makes no sense, according to two former microbiologists at the Food Safety Inspection Service.

"I have a 2-year-old son," microbiologist Gerald Zirnstein told The Daily. "And you better believe I don't want him eating pink slime when he starts going to school."

It was Zirnstein who first coined the term "pink slime" after touring a Beef Products Inc. production facility in 2002 as part of an investigation into salmonella contamination in packaged ground beef. In an email to his colleagues shortly after the visit, Zirnstein said he did not "consider the stuff to be ground beef."

Made by grinding together connective tissue and beef scraps normally destined for dog food and rendering, BPI's Lean Beef Trimmings are then treated with ammonia hydroxide, a process that kills pathogens such as salmonella and E. coli.

The resulting pinkish substance is later blended into traditional ground beef and hamburger patties.

For retired microbiologist Carl Custer, a 35-year veteran of the Food Safety Inspection Service, the idea of mixing in BPI's Lean Beef Trimmings into more nutritious, pure ground beef was itself problematic.

"We originally called it soylent pink," Custer told The Daily. "We looked at the product and we objected to it because it used connective tissues instead of muscle. It was simply not nutritionally equivalent [to ground beef]. My main objection was that it was not meat." Custer said he first encountered the product — which gained fame recently as "pink slime" in part due to the efforts of celebrity chef Jamie Oliver — back in the late 1990s. Despite voicing his concerns to other officials at the food inspection service, however, the USDA ruled that Lean Beef Trimmings were safe. "The word in the office was that undersecretary JoAnn Smith pushed it through, and that was that," Custer said.

Appointed by President George H.W. Bush in 1989, Smith had deep ties with the beef industry, serving as president of both the Florida Cattlemen's Association and the of the National Cattlemen's Association.

"Scientists in D.C. were pressured to approve this stuff with minimal safety approval," Zirnstein said.

A baseline study conducted by Zirnstein and Custer classified the trimmings as a "high risk product." Zirnstein says the food inspection service ignored their findings, and commissioned a separate study to assess the safety of BPI's meat.

The USDA, which plans to buy 7 million pounds of Lean Beef Trimmings from BPI in the coming months for the national school lunch program, said in a statement that all of its ground beef purchases "meet the highest standard for food safety." USDA officials also noted that the sole role of the food inspection service is to determine the overall safety of the nation's food supply, not to make judgments on a product's relative merits.

But Zirnstein and Custer say that the USDA now finds itself in the odd position of purchasing a product that has recently been dropped by fast-food giants McDonald's, Burger King and Taco Bell.

Denise Riordan Eblen, Ph.D.

Deputy Director, Risk Assessment Division

Office of Public Health Science

Food Safety and Inspection Service

United States Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Ave., Maildrop 3766,

(9D-182 Patriot's Plaza III)

Washington, D.C., 20250

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Office: 202-690-6238

Fax: 202-690-6337

e-mail: [denise.eblen@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:denise.eblen@fsis.usda.gov)

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**From:** [Coley, Donald - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: It's 100 Percent Beef" Company on Defensive as It Closes Plants  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:29:10 PM

---

Thanks, we've probably all eaten it. Is not as bad as it looks. However the "pink slime" idea got started and on internet-that's all she wrote. Company might not be able to come back from lost business.

Donald R. (Don) Coley  
Deputy District Manager  
Ridgeland, MS.  
1-800-647-2484 or fax 601-965-5901

---

**From:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:24 AM  
**To:** Coley, Donald - FSIS  
**Cc:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** It's 100 Percent Beef" Company on Defensive as It Closes Plants

Interesting article.....

<< File: 'It's 100 Percent Beef' Company on Defensive as It Closes Plants - Yahoo!.htm >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Jamie Oliver wants to know why pink slime is part of your child's healthy school lunch Source: Red Green & Blue (<http://s.tt/12zuF>)  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 1:22:37 PM

---

It's been all over the news for the last week—ABC Nightly news has been covering it every night—where have you been? Also, all over the daily news clips.

(b) (6) Ph.D.  
Senior Economist  
Food Safety & Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Fax:  
e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:49 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Jamie Oliver wants to know why pink slime is part of your child's healthy school lunch Source: Red Green & Blue (<http://s.tt/12zuF>)

FYI

**Ms.** (b) (6)  
**Senior Economist**  
**US Department of Agriculture**  
**Food Safety & Inspection Service**  
**Policy Analysis Division**  
**Office:** (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - APHIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:28 AM  
**Subject:** Jamie Oliver wants to know why pink slime is part of your child's healthy school lunch Source: Red Green & Blue (<http://s.tt/12zuF>)

<http://redgreenandblue.org/2011/04/13/jamie-oliver-wants-to-know-why-pink-slime-in-school-lunch/>

Why on earth does the USDA allow “pink slime” – a homogenized mix of the nastiest dregs and runoff of the meat processing industry – to be added into school lunches for America's children?

That's the question celebrity chef [Jamie Oliver](#) is asking on his show [Food Revolution](#) (Tuesday nights from 8:00-9:00 p.m. ET on ABC), and hopefully his voice will actually inspire somebody to listen.

Certainly not the folks at the Los Angeles Unified School District, who responded to questions about the health of the children they feed every day by banning Oliver and his

camera crew from every school in LA. Even in West Virginia, they were more open to work with Oliver to improve school lunches. But not Los Angeles.

Jamie Oliver has a cow



One of the things he did on the show was demonstrate how pink slime is made... and why. Basically, they take everything that's too nasty for humans to even look at as food – the stuff that used to be sold on the cheap as additives to pet food. But then some bright boy in the beef industry figured out that you could process it with ammonia (yes, just like your household cleaner) to kill e-coli and salmonella, then blend it all up into this pinkish goop that can be added back into ground beef – up to 15 percent.

Imagine the boost that gives to profits! According to [one report](#), \$440 million a year! From that perspective it makes sense that pink slime is now in 70 percent of ground beef products, and 5.5 million pounds a year are used in schools.

And since the USDA considers it a “process”, it doesn't even have to be listed on the package as a separate ingredient! Probably better for the bottom line, since I'm sure that being forced to print “includes pink slime processed with ammonia” on the label would cut into sales...

-> Next page: [Making kids sick](#)

## Pink Slime in Fast Food Burgers

<http://eatdrinkbetter.com/2010/08/12/pink-slime-in-fast-food-burgers/>

Source: [Red Green & Blue](#) (<http://s.tt/12zuE>)

**From:** [O'Drudy, Leo - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#); [Khan, Atiya - FSIS](#); [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Boody, Elizabeth - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Jon Stewart on "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:13:36 AM

---

Don't miss the Simpsons clip, "Meat and You" in the comments below the Stewart clip. Direct link follows:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=bps-xbo8wnA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=bps-xbo8wnA)

Leo K. O'Drudy, III

Legislative Analyst

FSIS Congressional and Public Affairs Office

US Department of Agriculture

Room 1180 South Building

1400 Independence Avenue SW

Washington DC 20250

202-720-0283

202-690-0460 fax

[leo.o'drudy@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:leo.o'drudy@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:31 AM  
**To:** Khan, Atiya - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Boody, Elizabeth - FSIS; O'Drudy, Leo - FSIS  
**Subject:** Jon Stewart on "Pink Slime"

For your viewing pleasure –

<http://gawker.com/5897338/jon-stewart-is-greatly-troubled-by-pink-slime>

Christopher Gould

Congressional & Public Affairs Office

USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service

202-690-4546 (desk)

202-365-0186 (cell)

202-720-5704 (fax)

**From:** [Harry and Elaine Hamil](#)  
**To:** [McIntire, Richard - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Just closing the loop--  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:42:21 AM  
**Attachments:** [USDA Ingredient Standard List & Labeling Requirements for Ground Beef Products.pdf](#)  
[2005.08 FSIS's Food Standards & Labeling Policy Book \(some definitions\).doc](#)  
[BPI - History.doc](#)

---

And, good day to you, Richard,

Attached are copies of the following:

1. The chart, "USDA Ingredient Standard List & Labeling Requirements for Ground Beef"
2. Some material retrieved from the August 2008 edition of FSIS's Food Standards & Labeling Policy Book (with highlight and a note from me)
3. A chart showing the history of BPI retrieved from its website

Also, here's the quote I mentioned about Dr. Cross from Food Safety News

(<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/how-will-bpis-plant-closures-affect-americas-beef/>):

Frustrated by the tone and angle of the mainstream media's "pink slime" coverage, Acuff wrote a critical commentary along with his colleague, **Texas A&M animal science professor H. Russell Cross, Ph.D., (who approved the use of LFTB when he was Administrator of the USDA's Food Safety).** They titled it "[Ignorance, pink slime and Sarah Palin?](#)" and attempted to illustrate how people view contentious issues depending on where they get their news.

I hope these help you in your research. If I can assist you, please let me know.

We appreciate your help in understanding what actually transpired.

Harry

**Harry Hamil**

**Co-publisher**

**Healthy Food News - US Edition**

**828/669-4003 - our greenhouse & home (where I usually am)**

**828/664-0060 - our store for local, healthy food (10 AM - 6 PM, Monday - Saturday)**

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [McIntire, Richard - FSIS](#)

**To:** [\(b\) \(6\)@buncombe.main.nc.us'](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:50 AM

**Subject:** Just closing the loop--

Good day.

Great speaking with you last evening. Will see what I can get you by end of the week or will hand off to another staffer for conclusion.

Appreciate your efforts and interest. Best of luck with the site.



And don't hesitate to contact us whenever you believe we can be of assistance.

Richard J. McIntire  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Food Safety & Inspection Service  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Wash., D.C. 20250

[richard.mcintire@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:richard.mcintire@fsis.usda.gov)

Ofc.: 202/690-0417; Cell./BB: (b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Gotta love the press-it's real food....  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:49:42 AM

---

Ok

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:37 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Gotta love the press-it's real food....

What's new with you? (b) (6) called on Tuesday and talked for 45 minutes! Give me a call if you get time and I will fill you in.

(b) (6) Program Auditor  
USDA-FSIS-ICAD-OPEER-FSAB  
Salisbury Field Office  
212 West Main St.  
Plaza Gallery Building, Suite 302  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
Ph) (b) (6)  
BB) (b) (6) Pin: (b) (6)  
Fax) 410-341-3612

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@fda.hhs.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Gotta love the press-it's real food....

I did and I thought it was great!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:32 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Gotta love the press-it's real food....

Boss man wouldn't let me out of writing another article about myself so I put a totally different spin on it and didn't mention artwork. If you get time to read it please let me know what you think. Thanks!

(b) (6) Program Auditor  
USDA-FSIS-ICAD-OPEER-FSAB  
Salisbury Field Office  
212 West Main St.  
Plaza Gallery Building, Suite 302  
Salisbury, MD 21801

Ph) (b) (6)  
BB) (b) (6) Pin: (b) (6)  
Fax) 410-341-3612

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@fda.hhs.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:14 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Gotta love the press-it's real food....

I was mystified when I came back to FSIS and found this stuff was treated with NH3. Glad to see the market is taking care of this....

## Safeway Drops 'Pink Slime,' Walmart to Offer Consumers Choice

by [Helena Bottemiller](#) | Mar 22, 2012

Responding to widespread consumer concern, the nation's second and third largest grocery chains, Safeway and SuperValu, will stop selling Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB), otherwise known as 'pink slime,' ABC World News reported Wednesday.

Safeway said "considerable consumer concern" led to its decision to drop the product, even though the company and the the U.S. Department of Agriculture insist the product is both safe and wholesome. SuperValu and Food Lion, also a top grocery store, announced they will no longer carry the product, also citing consumer concern.

The nation's largest grocer, Walmart, said its ground beef contains LFTB, but the supermarket giant will soon offer consumers a choice, [according to ABC](#).

ABC World News took credit for the consumer reaction, even though its reporting was in response to The Daily first re-reporting issues that had been brought up by the New York Times in 2009. The iPad paper also pointed to the fact that USDA was gearing up to purchase more of the product for the national school lunch program.

"We found that the filler was added to 70 percent of the ground beef sold in this country. Consumers reacted across America and you took your questions straight to the department of the stores where you shop," said Diane Sawyer Wednesday night on ABC World News, which averages more than 7 million viewers. "Tonight some big supermarket chains are signaling that they heard you loud and clear."

Safeway said Wednesday that it's "committed to providing our customers with the highest-quality products."

"While the USDA and food industry experts agree that lean finely textured beef is safe and wholesome, recent news stories have caused considerable consumer concern about this product. Safeway will no longer purchase ground beef containing lean finely textured beef."

LFTB is essentially low-cost hamburger filler made from leftover trimmings once relegated to pet food and other byproducts. Because trimmings are at risk for E. coli or Salmonella contamination, the company adds a mixture of ammonia and water (ammonium hydroxide) to kill bacteria. The product, which is 90 percent lean, is then mixed in with other, higher fat content ground beef.

Last spring, celebrity chef Jamie Oliver sparked interest in the topic after railing against the product on his ABC reality show. He called the "clever scientific process" shocking and a breach of consumer trust and referred to LFTB as "shit." Fast food giants McDonald's, Taco Bell, and Burger King all dropped LFTB several months later.

'Pink slime' caught fire again this month when Bettina Siegel, a mom and blogger, petitioned USDA to remove the product from school lunches. Since launching her petition at [change.org](http://change.org), she has attracted nearly a quarter of a million signatures.

(b) (6)

Staff Manager

Office of Emergency Operations

Office of Crisis Management

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

10903 New Hampshire Ave.

Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Office: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 5:05:23 PM

---

Tell them it is really strawberry slurry ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

I really want to know what FSIS's stance is on Pink Slime. Now I've got people asking about it.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

You should tell her

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

Maybe. If that's the case she should at least delete her boss from her friends list.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:00 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

Maybe she don't think anyone is reading her posts.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

Everyone that works on that line is mad at the agency. The funny thing is that she is 50 and needs the job.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:54 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

Maybe she is mad at the Agency.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

It's not that....it's that she's a representative of USDA. She can't make statements like that.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

Yum we can pretend it is strawberry slurry

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

OMG!!!! This woman that I worked with in Indiana posted something on Facebook about "USDA plans to keep feeding 'pink slime' to your kids" and she still works for USDA. Holy crap!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:49 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

Yep you can link them all day long and nothing is going to happen lol

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:47 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

Yeah, seriously...If you had written it, I would have had to link it to the one that I wrote yesterday.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:45 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

Yes it was. I did not have time to finish that NR. I deleted it they got a freebee that time.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

I think it was one that was started but never finished. There's no writing in block 10

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:15 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

I will go look at it.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:24 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

Well, there's an open NR dated Jan 24, and I don't know who wrote it. I just wanted to close it out (if they're back in compliance). I figured it was either you or (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

I don't think so why? I believe I closed everything.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:21 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Grammar

Hey...Do you have an open NR at Old Trapper dated January 24?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:22 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Grammar

<< File: Grammar.pdf >> I don't know if I sent this to you yet or not. If I did just delete it.

**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Green Eggs and Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:22:54 AM

---

Here's what the Department issued yesterday:

[http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&edeployment\\_action=retrievecontent](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&edeployment_action=retrievecontent)

Neil Gaffney  
*Press Officer*  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U S Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O : 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax 202-690-0460  
[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 8:16 AM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Green Eggs and Pink Slime

Neil-

(b) (6) says she is on the general mailing list for this group so she doesn't think this communication is specifically directed to her so a reply may not be needed.

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science  
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods  
  
Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-6600  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:28 PM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Green Eggs and Pink Slime

Yes, but we don't have anything yet. The Department (Office of Communications) is handling it.

Neil Gaffney  
*Press Officer*  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U S Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O : 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax 202-690-0460  
[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>



<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:26 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Green Eggs and Pink Slime

Hi Neil-

Making you aware that this has come in. Does your office want to reply?

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science  
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-6600  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:22 PM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Green Eggs and Pink Slime

FYI

(b) (6)  
*Advisory Committee Specialist*  
*USDA, FSIS, OPHS, MD, NACMCF*  
*Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B*  
*1400 Independence Avenue, SW*  
*Washington, DC 20250*  
*Office: (b) (6)*  
*Fax: 202-690-6364*  
*Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov*

---

**From:** Monifa, MomsRising.org [mailto:info@momsrising.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:02 PM  
**To:** Thomas-Sharp, Karen - FSIS  
**Subject:** Green Eggs and Pink Slime

Dear (b) (6)

*Will you eat them here or there?* We all love Sam-I-Am's rhythmic attempt to encourage others to eat strange green food. And when the green eggs are finally eaten, it's hilarious! But moms and dads aren't laughing about feeling trapped in a storybook where it's Uncle Sam who is endorsing a food that we do not want to eat.

And, what do we want to eat less than green eggs? **Pink Slime** – a food additive made from spare beef trimmings that's treated with ammonium hydroxide to kill off E. Coli, salmonella, and other possible bacteria, is in grocery stores, cafeterias, and restaurants across the nation [1]. In fact, one article noted, "ABC cited a former U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist in saying that 70% of supermarket ground beef contained the additive." [2]

Our families deserve to eat high quality foods--and pink slime is most definitely NOT on our list of good eats.

**\*Join us in urging USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least to require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide not to buy it in the stores:** <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3188.398211.NS4Mcf&t=5>

When you do take action via the above link, you'll send an important message to USDA and FDA that moms and dads are paying close attention to the food our children and families eat.

Why?



**Urge USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide not to buy it!**



[Take Action](#)

Our children are facing increasing health risks related to their diets. As parents, we make every effort to feed them quality, wholesome foods but we can't do that if we don't even know what's in the products we buy. It's time to take pink slime off of the menu and off of grocery store shelves--or at least require it to be listed on food labels so moms and dads can decide what's in the best interest of their families.

With children facing many health problems linked to poor nutrition, it's time to take pink slime off the grocery store shelves and off the menus.

**\*Moms and dads are paying attention! \*Join us in urging USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least to require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide not to buy it in the stores:** <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3188.398211.NS4Mcf&t=7>

Our families deserve no less. Say NO to pink slime.

What exactly is this "slime"? The slime consists of beef by-products: cow intestines, connective tissue, and other parts that are not used in traditional beef cuts [3]. And, don't forget the ammonia! [4]

**Yuck! Not in a box. Not with a fox. Not in a pool. Not in a store. We do not like it here or there. We do not like it anywhere.** <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3188.398211.NS4Mcf&t=9>

Fictional Dr. Seuss characters eating green eggs is funny. Our families and children eating pink slime - not so much.

*Please take a moment to sign on--and to forward this email to friends (and post the action link on your Facebook page) so others can sign on too.*

Together we're a powerful force for women and families,

- Monifa, Kristin, Donna, Claire, Sarah, Joan, and the whole MomsRising team

P.S. Please join us on Monday, March 19, 4:15 PM EST/ 1:15 PM PST, for a mom-to-mom Internet radio discussion with head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Lisa P. Jackson!

MomsRising's fearless leader, Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner will moderate the conversation, which will also include asthma specialist, Dr. Sumita Khatri, and Steph's mom, Lydia Rojas. The topic? How the concept of clean air became "controversial" in the middle of a national asthma epidemic as lawmakers bow to special interests and work to dismantle clean air regulations, and how moms and dads can help.

Join the program here: <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1664?akid=3188.398211.NS4Mcf&t=11>

Please let us know you plan to participate by [RSVPing here](#).

[1] ABC News - <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1672?akid=3188.398211.NS4Mcf&t=14>

[2] LA Times <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1673?akid=3188.398211.NS4Mcf&t=16>

[3] USA Today - <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1674?akid=3188.398211.NS4Mcf&t=18>

[4] Huffington Post- <http://action.momsrising.org/go/1675?akid=3188.398211.NS4Mcf&t=20>

**Like what we're doing? Donate:** [We're a bootstrap, low overhead, mom run organization.](#) Your donations make the work of MomsRising.org possible--and we deeply appreciate your support. Every little bit counts.

---

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What should MomsRising tackle next? [Tell us what's on your mind](#)



[You can unsubscribe from this mailing list at any time.](#)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Green Eggs and Pink Slime  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 8:52:43 AM

---

Okay, I guess I was confused with the e-mail.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 7:18 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Green Eggs and Pink Slime

No she is [on the mailing](#) list, she receives everything they send out.

**Gerri**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 11:40 AM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Green Eggs and Pink Slime

Gerri,

This did not make sense to me.

You said "(b) (6)" status she is **on** the general mailing list...so she doesn't think this communication is specifically directed to her..."

Did you mean to say "(b) (6)" says she is **not on** the general mailing list...so she doesn't think this communication is specifically directed to her..."

(b) (6)

M. (b) (6), M.S.  
Staff Officer - Biologist  
USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Health Science  
Microbiology Division  
Stop 3777, PP 3, Room 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 690-6364  
E-Mail: (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 8:16 AM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Green Eggs and Pink Slime

Neil-

(b) (6) says she is on the general mailing list for this group so she doesn't think this communication is specifically directed to her so a reply may not be needed.

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science  
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
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Office: 202-690-6600  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Stanley Jensen](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Greetings  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:38:33 PM

---

Thanks for the info and briefing. What the status now on Texas meat plants? Are they doing Pink Slime?

Stan Jensen

(b) (6) res

Ce;; (b) (6)

PS My 3rd annual knife and hawk throw March 24 & 25 Unk's Restaurant at FM 2661 and CR 1261 (Big Eddy Rd) Sat and Sun

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**To:** [Stanley Jensen](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 8:45 AM

**Subject:** Greetings

Things are changing in FSIS. Poultry plants will convert to a HIMP-like program over the next three years starting the end of this year. No more 7's or SCSI's. Nationally, about 2500 will be promoted to 8's, and about 1000 will be lost by attrition. (We lose about 600 per year).

PHIS still going forward. Still some glitches, but these are slowly being resolved. My circuit is handling PHIS very well.

Mineola doing ok. Dan is having a heart valve replaced. First attempt did not go well, but he is going to Dallas where they can do this robotically through the femoral artery.

Big blow up at Coke. TW gone, at least for a while. He is going to have his knees replaced. Mike handling everything very well, and all is peaceful with TW out.

District realignment. Five Districts will be going away. Dallas District is picking up Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. Do not know effective date, but this year.

Earnestine Deadmon retiring June 2. (b) (6) may go out next May or June.

That's all I can think of for now.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) DVM

Frontline Supervisor, Circuit 4027

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

(b) (6)

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**From:** [Cheslak, Cyrus \(Collins\)](#)  
**To:** [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Ground Beed additives  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:23:20 AM

---

Well I shot both of you an email just for the spread-shot effect. I am glad to hear you don't have any food safety concerns; do you have any paper on it?

---

**From:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS [mailto:Christopher.Gould@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Cheslak, Cyrus (Collins)  
**Subject:** RE: Ground Beed additives

I understand you were referred to (b) (6) at FNS about this, so you should be hearing from him. We don't really have any food safety concerns.

Christopher Gould  
Congressional & Public Affairs Office  
USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service  
202-690-4546 (desk)  
202-365-0186 (cell)  
202-720-5704 (fax)

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cheslak, Cyrus (Collins) [mailto:Cyrus\_Cheslak@collins.senate.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:59 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Ground Beed additives

Hi Chris,

Do you have a white paper or other info on the so-called "pink slime" that USDA is apparently allowing schools to purchase? Anything on the safety of the product or FSIS concerns about it?

Cyrus E. Cheslak  
Legislative Assistant  
Senator Susan M. Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-4884

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Happy Monday  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 10:17:16 AM

---

Welcome and thx!

Dr. (b) (6)

Portland Frontline Supervisor

Portland Circuit 09

Denver District 15

Blackberry # (b) (6)

Fax # 503.336.1648

Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 7:12 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Happy Monday

Sounds good!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 7:06 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Happy Monday

Good morning (b) (6)

Not sure if the Agency is responding or not. If you get any inquires just tell them to contact askFSIS or our public relations office. Don't try and answer anything on it. LOL about the word pink.....

I will try and catch up with you later today, I have to head into Portland first so I will give



you a jingle when I am heading your way.

Thx,

Dr. (b) (6)

Portland Frontline Supervisor

Portland Circuit 09

Denver District 15

Blackberry # (b) (6)

Fax # 503.336.1648

Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 7:02 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Happy Monday

Good morning! I hope you had a good weekend.

I'm getting a lot of inquiries about pink slime and can't see that FSIS is saying anything about it at all. Has USDA/FSIS said anything publically about it? Maybe I'm just traumatized from the word pink....I think it happened about 20 years ago when Barbies started appearing at my house.

(b) (6), IIC, CSI


USDA, FSIS

Portland, Oregon

"Today's mighty Oak is

yesterday's nut who

unknown



██████████

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: have you had this kind of pink slime question?  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:47:02 AM

---

Yeah. Odd one.

Thanks.

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: have you had this kind of pink slime question?

No, I haven't. I have several now that talk about ground chuck, round, etc., but not beefalo.

(b) (6)  
USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
(b) (6)  
(202) 720-7609 Fax

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:11 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** have you had this kind of pink slime question?

This person wants to know if it can be used in a certain product. The one in question is "beefalo."

I tried (b) (6) The closest she had was whether or not it could be labeled fresh.

Thanks!

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)  
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[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** [Stevens, Janet - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Taylor, Kim - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 12:19:54 PM

---

I can do early Monday as long as we're done by 9:15. That work for you? Otherwise, Tuesday afternoon is all I have open but I think that wasn't good for you.

Best Regards,  
Janet

Janet B. Stevens, PMP  
Chief Information Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA  
[Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov)  
Phone: 202-205-9950 | Fax: 202-690-3903 | Cell: 202-465-6769

Visit the FSIS Web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

FSIS Employees, visit your intranet site, InsideFSIS: <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov>

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the Service Desk:  
<http://service/footprints> or call 1-800-473-9135.

Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other personal data assistant or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1-(800) 473-9135.

---

**From:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 10:32 AM  
**To:** Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition

:)

-----  
Kim Taylor  
Director Web Services  
Congressional & Public Affairs  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
[kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov)  
Direct: 202.690.6188  
Office: 202.720.9113  
Mobile: 202.731.9291

---

**From:** Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 10:02 AM

**To:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition

Thanks. Will monitor at our gateways for any potential service impacts.

Best Regards,  
Janet

Janet B. Stevens, PMP  
Chief Information Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA  
Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov  
Phone: 202-205-9950 | Fax: 202-690-3903 | Cell: (b) (6)

Visit the FSIS Web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

FSIS Employees, visit your intranet site, InsideFSIS: <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov>

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the Service Desk:  
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Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other personal data assistant or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1-(800) 473-9135.

---

**From:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 09:31 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition

This one is [act.credoaction.com](http://act.credoaction.com)

Similar call to action but different outlet than [change.org](http://change.org).

-----  
Kim Taylor  
Director Web Services  
Congressional & Public Affairs  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
[kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov)  
Direct: 202.690.6188  
Office: 202.720.9113  
Mobile: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 09:27 AM  
**To:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition

Just FYI - if this is the change.org petition, it was to Sec Vilsack and 4 other USDA officials, but none in FSIS, and was posted on 3.6 and gathered more than 11,000 signatures in 3 days.

Brian K. Mabry  
Congressional and Media  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Please Note New Direct Dial  
tel. 202.720.9891 | fax 202.690.0460  
Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 09:20 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
**Subject:** Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition

Forwarding from my gmail account where I typed up and copied url. . Petition online to stop ask USDA to stop using "pink slime"

Among others things may increase email volume.

Petition (one of my contacts had posted on facebook) to stop the "pink slime".  
[http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink\\_slime/?rc=fb\\_share2](http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink_slime/?rc=fb_share2)

-----  
Kim Taylor  
Director Web Services  
Congressional & Public Affairs  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov  
Direct: 202.690.6188  
Office: 202.720.9113  
Mobile: 202.731.9291

---

**From:** Kim [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 09:14 AM  
**To:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Subject:** Stop Pink Slime Petition

Petition (one of my contacts had posted on facebook) to stop the "pink slime".

[http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink\\_slime/?rc=fb\\_share2](http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink_slime/?rc=fb_share2)

--

Kim Taylor

<http://flickr.com/kim>

<http://ktaylorphotos.com>

Twitter [@ktaylorphotos](#)

Facebook: <http://www.Facebook.com/finiky>



**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Taylor, Kim - FSIS](#); [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Stevens, Janet - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 10:31:59 AM

---

This is different than change.org - thanks for the heads up, Kim. A call to action, but no link to us that I could see.

Brian

Brian K. Mabry  
Congressional and Media  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Please Note New Direct Dial  
tel. 202.720.9891 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 09:20 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
**Subject:** Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition

Forwarding from my gmail account where I typed up and copied url. . Petition online to stop ask USDA to stop using "pink slime"

Among others things may increase email volume.

Petition (one of my contacts had posted on facebook) to stop the "pink slime".  
[http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink\\_slime/?rc=fb\\_share2](http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink_slime/?rc=fb_share2)

-----  
Kim Taylor  
Director Web Services  
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[kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov)  
Direct: 202.690.6188  
Office: 202.720.9113  
Mobile: (b) (6)

**From:** [Taylor, Kim - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 10:35:21 AM

---

Now if I were eating meat I would have a hamburger :)

-----  
Kim Taylor  
Director Web Services  
Congressional & Public Affairs  
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[kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov)  
Direct: 202.690.6188  
Office: 202.720.9113  
Mobile: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 09:32 AM  
**To:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition

Just saw that - thanks again.

Brian K. Mabry  
Congressional and Media  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Please Note New Direct Dial  
tel. 202.720.9891 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 09:31 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Cc:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition

This one is [act.credoaction.com](http://act.credoaction.com)

Similar call to action but different outlet than [change.org](http://change.org).

-----  
Kim Taylor  
Director Web Services

[REDACTED]  
Congressional & Public Affairs [REDACTED]  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov  
Direct: 202.690.6188 [REDACTED]  
Office: 202.720.9113 [REDACTED]  
Mobile: 202.731.9291 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Stevens, Janet - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Taylor, Kim - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 12:17:36 PM

---

Let me see if I can move some things around on Monday and save us some stress.

Best Regards,  
Janet

Janet B. Stevens, PMP  
Chief Information Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA  
[Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov)  
Phone: 202-205-9950 | Fax: 202-690-3903 | Cell: (b) (6)

Visit the FSIS Web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

FSIS Employees, visit your intranet site, InsideFSIS: <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov>

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the Service Desk:  
<http://service/footprints> or call 1-800-473-9135.

Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other personal data assistant or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1-(800) 473-9135.

---

**From:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 10:32 AM  
**To:** Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition

:)

-----  
Kim Taylor  
Director Web Services  
Congressional & Public Affairs  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
[kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov)  
Direct: 202.690.6188  
Office: 202.720.9113  
Mobile: (b) (6)

**From:** [Stevens, Janet - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Taylor, Kim - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 2:51:44 PM

---

Coolsies!

Best Regards,  
Janet

Janet B. Stevens, PMP  
Chief Information Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA  
[Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov)  
Phone: 202-205-9950 | Fax: 202-690-3903 | Cell: (b) (6)

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FSIS Employees, visit your intranet site, InsideFSIS: <http://inside.fsis.usda.gov>

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Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other personal data assistant or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1-(800) 473-9135.

---

**From:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 01:51 PM  
**To:** Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition

We can shoot glasses / no glasses. I will have minimal gear. A reflector will help mucho :)

Your blue curtains w/flags will look awesome :)

-----  
Kim Taylor  
Director Web Services  
Congressional & Public Affairs  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
[kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov)  
Direct: 202.690.6188  
Office: 202.720.9113  
Mobile: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Stevens, Janet - FSIS

**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 01:44 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition

Cool. Let's do that, then. Less stress for both of us. Will email u when I get in. Shooting for 8 so u can set up and we can arrange the shot. I am torn on glasses/no glasses. Pondering. May try both.

Best Regards,  
Janet

Janet B. Stevens, PMP  
Chief Information Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA  
Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov  
Phone: 202-205-9950 | Fax: 202-690-3903 | Cell: (b) (6)

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---

**From:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 01:38 PM  
**To:** Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition

Monday works. I have cpa managers at 10 you need to be done by 915. It all works.

You want to start at 8 or 8 30. Shouldn't take too long to snap off a few photos.

-----  
Kim Taylor  
Director Web Services  
Congressional & Public Affairs  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
[kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov)  
Direct: 202.690.6188  
Office: 202.720.9113

Mobile: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Stevens, Janet - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 11:19 AM  
**To:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up Stop Pink Slime Petition

I can do early Monday as long as we're done by 9:15. That work for you? Otherwise, Tuesday afternoon is all I have open but I think that wasn't good for you.

Best Regards,  
Janet

Janet B. Stevens, PMP  
Chief Information Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Food Safety and Inspection Service/USDA  
Janet.Stevens@fsis.usda.gov  
Phone: 202-205-9950 | Fax: 202-690-3903 | Cell: (b) (6)

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<http://service/footprints> or call 1-800-473-9135.

Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other personal data assistant or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You or 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1-(800) 473-9135.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Hello, We are a fulfillment company that ships other people's products. We would...  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:23:50 PM

---

Thanks (b) (6) ☺

Hope you had a nice trip. I haven't answer it. I'm having one of those days....I came to the office and forgot my computer at home..so I'm working with a computer I borrowed from (b) (6) :-!

Glad I could help. I tried to keep the mailbox clean last week. We didn't get many emails, mostly about pink slime, which I fwd to ECIMS.

Hugs,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:16 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Hello, We are a fulfillment company that ships other people's products. We would...

Hi (b) (6)

Sssshhhhh don't tell ECIMS, but if we know who the question should go to Bob and Diane said we could go ahead and directly forward it to the correct staff.

We had some complaints from Import/Export about it taking too long to forward a question to ECIMS so they could forward it to Import/Export.

This should go to AskFSIS.

Are you in Karen? My plane landed at 6am this morning, so I took a little nap, cleaned up the house from my week away <:o) and now I'm working, so I can take care of everything.

Thanks for covering for me last week!

(b) (6)

p.s. have you already answered this? If not I will forward it to the FSIS webmaster box and answer it from there.

(b) (6) M.S.  
Technical Information Specialist  
Food Safety Education Staff  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
phone: (b) (6)  
fax: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:21 PM



**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: Hello, We are a fulfillment company that ships other people's products. We would...

Hi Marianne,

Is this for ECIMS or AskFSIS?

---

**From:** (b) (6) mailto:(b) (6)@usda.gov]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:00 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** FWD: Hello, We are a fulfillment company that ships other people's products. We would...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

AMS (b) (6) (b) (6)@usda.gov)

#### Sender's Comment

Is this something FSIS could answer?

Thanks.

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6)@centralpackagingandfulfillment.com

**First Name:**

**Last Name:**

**Type:**

**Title:**

#### Reference #120221-000019

**Summary:** Hello, We are a fulfillment company that ships other people's products. We would...

**Escalation Level:** 7 Days

**Rule State:** 999.2 Expert In Progress

**Topic Level 1:** Food

**Subtopic Level 2:** Food Distribution

**Date Created:** 02/21/2012 12:50 PM

**Last Updated:** 03/15/2012 01:53 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

02/21/2012 12:50 PM

Hello, We are a fulfillment company that ships other people's products. We would like to ship food products pre-sealed upon entering our warehouse and we would re-ship with other types of products. What special licensing might we need, if any? Thank you. Sandy

(b) (6)

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

**From:** [wachholtz](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Hello  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:11:11 PM

---

We saw most of Martina but she only sang two real country songs. Most of her stuff is the cross over and I really don't listen to that. But yes we saw her and her band. Her brother is also the lead guitarist. She talked about growing up in Kansas and her dad was had a country band and she and her brother both sang and played in it from the time they were 5 and 8 years old. After our butts got tired of sitting on the metal stadium seats we left about 15 minutes before she was finished. Made it easier to get ahead of the other 5,998 people.

The winds that were here last night must have got to your area today. Man did they blow we actually put one slide in as the canvas cover was just rolling in and out and didn't want it to get tore up.

Man our sister sure has a black eye. Likely excuse tripping over a step. Walter finally said enough is enough. Maybe a celebration on getting the floor done and to many beers. But then again she is getting older and can't pick up her feet. Anyway that is quite a shiner.

The world news was talking about the pink slime being stopped for a while so will see. Hope it blows over pretty soon so we can hear more good things about your leader being so great.

Love,  
Don

On 3/26/2012 1:58 PM, Wachholtz, Rodney - FSIS wrote:

Was a very warm day here Sunday and even warmer today. Right now it is teetering on breaking a record for march. Did get allot of yard work done yesterday. Backyard still too wet to use the new tiller☹. But with the winds blowing 40 mph plus today it will be dried out real soon. So were you able to see Martina McBride? She comes from this area you know. Her husband used to work over to Farmland her in Wichita plants Maintenance. She was just here with George Strait. Guess I best get to work, love rod

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pl

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: help with correspondence: Is Pink Slime allowed to be used in \_\_\_\_\_?  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:18:27 PM

---

(b) (6)

Yes, (b) (6) has some of the exchanges. I know that RIMD and PID have been working on statements that can be used. As (b) (6) mentioned, we are waiting on clearance of some responses from upper management, i.e., will we allow a claim to be made on a meat product such as "contains no finely textured beef." We are waiting to hear back.

I can say for sure that the use of LFTB would not prohibit a product in which it is used as an ingredient from being labeled as "fresh." We have a policy for "fresh" on meat product labels in the Food Standards and Labeling Policy Book.

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/larc/Policies/Labeling\\_Policy\\_Book\\_082005.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/larc/Policies/Labeling_Policy_Book_082005.pdf)

Here is some language we sent Dan this morning on a separate inquiry on LFTB.

Lean finely textured beef (LFTB) is a meat food product whereby heat and a mechanical process are applied to meat trimmings to reduce the fat content. Because the temperature does not exceed 107° F, the proteins are not denatured during the process. The product does not appear to have been heat treated and has similar performance characteristics as meat. LFTB typically contains at least 14 percent protein, no more than 10 percent fat, and has a protein efficiency ratio of 2.5 resulting in a product that is compositionally similar to beef. Therefore, FSIS determined that LFTB may be used and labeled as beef in the formulation of ground beef and other meat food products.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W. – Stop 5273  
Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor – Cubicle 161A  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (301) 504-0879  
Fax: (202) 245-4792

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:39 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: help with correspondence: Is Pink Slime allowed to be used in \_\_\_\_\_?

Hi Laura

We will get back with you for some standard statement that can be used in responses. I think we will need to run it by the higher powers and get their blessing. There may be one already. I don't know for sure. LPDD will get back in touch with you. Thanks.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:19 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: help with correspondence: Is Pink Slime allowed to be used in \_\_\_\_\_?

Hi (b) (6)

I got Jeff's out of office.

Would you be able to help me out with this?

Thanks!

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:29 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** help with correspondence: Is Pink Slime allowed to be used in \_\_\_\_\_?

Hi,

"Beefalo" is the product in question. I imagine we will be getting questions about other products, if we haven't already. I've asked around the office and it doesn't sound like it. (b) (6) shared with me the information about whether a product containing LFTB could be labeled "fresh." I wasn't comfortably positive I could use that though.

Do you think it would be appropriate to come up with some standard text for whether it can be used in a product?

Thank you!

(b) (6)

*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)

E-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Here are the three documents - sorry for the delay  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:23:57 AM

---

Thanks (b) (6)

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:21 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** Here are the three documents - sorry for the delay

<< Message: DRAFT Ammonium Hydroxide Fact Sheet - NOT cleared - >> << Message: FW:  
Pink Slime Calls, comments from Diane >> << Message: Dirks comments >>



From: (b) (6)  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: hey  
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:35:38 AM

---

Can't think of any other grocery stuff other than salad mix. Will let you know if I think of anything. Hope we don't get the pukes either. Don't care either way about the potatoes. Was nice having some at the end of summer but we just cant get them to keep very long. Guess we could plant a few. I like the golds and the reds. Maybe get some carrot seeds too and we could plant those in the earth boxes with the radishes.  
Love you. :)

(b) (6)  
Creative Memories Senior Consultant  
CM ID 46559196  
(b) (6) Home  
(b) (6) Cell

Shop 24/7 at [www.mycmsite.com/jenniferhanna](http://www.mycmsite.com/jenniferhanna)

your life | your story | your way

---

From: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov  
To: (b) (6)@hotmail.com  
Subject: hey  
Date: Wed, 28 Mar 2012 12:04:54 +0000

Didn't get much sleep last night, so am dragging. Heard the 1130 gong go off on the clock. Took the sleeping pill, but didn't seem to do much good. Worrying too much. Got the state tax refund in the checking account today, which was a relief. Have state farm and juniper coming out today, and there wasn't enough there to cover them. Guess something always turns up. Not. Hope (b) (6) doesn't spend the day puking. Felt like I was going to last night, but didn't, and haven't yet this morning. Got a bunch of stuff for finely textured beef (pink slime in layman terms) for you if you want that for your paper, will bring it tonight. Need gas, on E, and will get some bread. Anything else we need in the way of groceries? May stop and get some potatoes to plant. What you want, white, red, or golden?

(b) (6), DVM  
SVMO, EIAO, IIC  
USDA/FSIS  
Cargill Meat Solutions, 00086M M  
590 Rd 9  
Schuyler, NE 68661  
(b) (6) (Office phone)  
402-352-5133 (Office fax)  
(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: hey  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:08:12 PM

---

Get out of here is this really it?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: hey

Here it is. Pink Slime, Wooooo Hoooo

(b) (6)  
*Investigator,*  
*USDA/FSIS/OPEER/CID*  
*United States Department of Agriculture*  
*Food Safety and Inspection Service*  
*Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement, and Review*  
*Compliance and Investigations Division*  
*Southwest Region Sub Office*  
*801 East Sangamon Ave.*  
*Springfield, Illinois 62702*  
*Direct Line:* (b) (6)  
*Cell BB:* (b) (6)  
*Fax:* 217-558-6033  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@illinois.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: hey

No you got one?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:04 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: hey

Have you seen a picture of pink slime?

(b) (6)

*Investigator,*

*USDA/FSIS/OPEER/CID*

*United States Department of Agriculture*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement, and Review*

*Compliance and Investigations Division*

*Southwest Region Sub Office*

*801 East Sangamon Ave.*

*Springfield, Illinois 62702*

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(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@illinois.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: hey

Good job!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:30 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: hey

Here is what I did to your list. All I did was to highlight (b) (6) and (b) (6) and alphabetize it.

Thanks again,

(b) (6)

*Investigator,*

*USDA/FSIS/OPEER/CID*

*United States Department of Agriculture*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement, and Review*

*Compliance and Investigations Division*

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---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@illinois.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:18 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: hey

Here ya go!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: hey

Hey buddy,

I was thinking ( ya I know it is scary) if the list for poultry exemptions is on word could I get a copy of it so I could rearrange it myself?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

*Investigator,*

*USDA/FSIS/OPEER/CID*

*United States Department of Agriculture*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement, and Review*

*Compliance and Investigations Division*

*Southwest Region Sub Office*

*801 East Sangamon Ave.*

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---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@illinois.gov]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 2:52 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: hey

No problem guess I was sending things to Mary in Lombard and they weren't getting to the right place

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 2:51 PM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: hey

Ya thanks for the new case!! lol

(b) (6)

*Investigator,*

*USDA/FSIS/OPEER/CID*

*United States Department of Agriculture*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement, and Review  
Compliance and Investigations Division  
Southwest Region Sub Office  
801 East Sangamon Ave.  
Springfield, Illinois 62702  
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(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)*

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---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@illinois.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 1:39 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: hey

thanks

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 1:33 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: hey

USDA/FSIS/OPEER/CID/SWRO  
1100 Commerce Street, Room 557  
Dallas, Texas 75242

**(b) (6)**

*Investigator,  
USDA/FSIS/OPEER/CID  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement, and Review  
Compliance and Investigations Division*

*Southwest Region Sub Office  
801 East Sangamon Ave.  
Springfield, Illinois 62702*

*Direct Line: (b) (6)*

*Cell BB: (b) (6)*

*Fax: 217-558-6033*

**(b) (6)** [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@Illinois.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 1:08 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** hey

Do you have an address for (b) (6)? I need to send a case to him from (b) (6) but I don't have the address

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: hi  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:01:15 PM

---

Easter will be on Easter. ☺ Not sure what time yet, but will keep you posted. Probably not game day cuz too many people in an out, but who knows.

(b) (6), City Clerk

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:47 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: hi

What time and what day for easter at your place? Is that game day?

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@cityofwestsacramento.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: hi

We are thinking of a sleepover at your house on Thursday followed by a morning trip to SF on Friday. Doable?

Easter is at our house and we would looove to have you!

(b) (6), City Clerk



**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: hi  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:19:05 AM

---

No problem - will do.

And thanks so much for the Easter candy! It came yesterday and I had to hold (b) (6) back from tearing into it. We are saving it for Easter. The wrapping is super cute!

(b) (6), City Clerk

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:00 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: hi

I am sorry, but I think I have to give up on this plan. I just cannot commit to something like this on a work night. Please consider an alternate plan where we might get to see you.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@cityofwestsacramento.org](mailto:(b) (6)@cityofwestsacramento.org)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:42 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: hi

Probably early but let me confirm with the girls.

On Mar 28, 2012, at 7:40 PM, "(b) (6) - FSIS"  
(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov<[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)>> wrote:

Not sure since it is a "work" night. We are in bed by 9 and up at 4:30. What time on Thursday?

**From:** (b) (6) [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@cityofwestsacramento.org](mailto:(b) (6)@cityofwestsacramento.org)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: hi

Yes, that will be the plan. Maybe out to dinner and games?

(b) (6), City Clerk

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:46 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: hi

I am not off work. Are you saying you want a sleep over and then go on your own to SF on Friday? Of course you can hang out at our place. But I have to go to bed early and get up early.

**From:** (b) (6) [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@cityofwestsacramento.org](mailto:(b) (6)@cityofwestsacramento.org)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: hi

We are thinking of a sleepover at your house on Thursday followed by a morning trip to SF on Friday. Doable?

Easter is at our house and we would looove to have you!

(b) (6), City Clerk

From: (b) (6) - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:36 PM  
To: (b) (6)  
Subject: RE: hi

Seems like nothing happening for Thursday. What do you have in mind? When are we playing for easter with everyone?

From: (b) (6) [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@cityofwestsacramento.org](mailto:(b) (6)@cityofwestsacramento.org)]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:34 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: hi

Yum. Sorry I don't eat meat. :) What's your schedule like next Thursday evening?

(b) (6), City Clerk

From: (b) (6) - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:33 PM  
To: (b) (6)  
Subject: RE: hi

Got here today from Los Angeles and leave on Friday. Pink slime is not an adulterant. It is a meat product and all packaged meat pretty much has it and has had it for years. The only issue now is that someone saw it and reacted unfavorably. The slime is actually meat that is processed more than ordinary meat like ground beef.

From: (b) (6) [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@cityofwestsacramento.org](mailto:(b) (6)@cityofwestsacramento.org)]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:30 PM  
To: Khroustalev, Allison - FSIS  
Subject: RE: hi

How long are you there? What's your take on pink slime?

(b) (6), City Clerk

From: (b) (6) - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:30 PM  
To: (b) (6)  
Subject: hi

Greetings from phoenix. Weird to be here after all this time. A lot has changed. Seeing some old friends today and tomorrow after work. That part is cool. Otherwise it is hot here.

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**From:** [Fravel, Roland - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Cutshall, Mary - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Hot Issues for Colorado  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:19:27 PM

---

Pink Slime

(b) (6)  
*Senior Emergency Response Specialist  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Data Integration and Food Protection  
Emergency Coordination Staff  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office (b) (6)  
Cell (b) (6)  
FAX 202-690-6459  
Email (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov*

---

**From:** Cutshall, Mary - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:18 PM  
**To:** FSIS - ODIFP/ECS; FSIS - ODIFP/FDAS; FSIS - ODIFP/DAIG  
**Cc:** Nintemann, Terri - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Hot Issues for Colorado

Any issues?

Mary K. Cutshall  
Director, Emergency Coordination Staff  
Data Integration and Food Protection  
FSIS,USDA  
Room 9-140 Patriots Plaza Bldg

Mail Stop 3793  
Washington, DC 20250  
Telephone: 202-690-6523  
BB 202-255-1167  
Fax: 202-690-6459  
[mary.cutshall@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:mary.cutshall@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:01 PM  
**To:** FSIS - FSIS Management Council; (b) (6) -  
FSIS; Gould, Christopher - FSIS; Nelson, Ron - FSIS; Thompson, David (DDMD090) - FSIS; (b) (6)  
(DO90) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Hot Issues for Colorado

Secretary Merrigan will be traveling to Denver, Colorado. Please send any "hot Issues" to

me by noon Monday, March 26.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250

Phone (b) (6)

**From:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: official statement  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:08:58 AM

---

Pink Slime

Now you can make bombs with it

[http://www.steadyhealth.com/articles/Do\\_You\\_Feed\\_Your\\_Kids\\_Pink\\_Slime\\_At\\_Home\\_\\_a2214.html](http://www.steadyhealth.com/articles/Do_You_Feed_Your_Kids_Pink_Slime_At_Home__a2214.html)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: official statement

Sweet. When do bars open?

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:47 AM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: official statement

FYI

---

**From:** Kane, Deborah - FNS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:30 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: official statement

I picked it up from an advocacy list serve.

**Deborah J. Kane**

National Director, USDA Farm to School Program

(c) 503.260.1717

Helping schools find and procure regionally produced food is a key component of the USDA [Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food](#) (KYF) initiative. Check out the new KYF [Compass](#) to learn more!

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:25 AM  
**To:** Kane, Deborah - FNS  
**Subject:** RE: official statement

This is not good – this information should not be out there yet. Please encourage FNS to not be discussing this is still with OSEC. And there are folks in FNS who don't agree with OSEC on this and will leak this.

That said I will send you something as soon as I have it.

---

**From:** Kane, Deborah - FNS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:58 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Alexander, Bruce - FNS  
**Subject:** official statement

I'm hearing through the grapevine that USDA is releasing an official statement on, forgive the shorthand, pink slime tomorrow. True? And if so, may I get an advanced copy please.

**Deborah J. Kane**

National Director, USDA Farm to School Program  
(c) 503.260.1717

Helping schools find and procure regionally produced food is a key component of the USDA [Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food](#) (KYF) initiative. Check out the new KYF [Compass](#) to learn more!



**From:** [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: OFS meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 12:27:19 PM

---

Thanks.

---

**From:** Rottenberg, Carmen - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 11:14 AM  
**To:** Almanza, Al - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** OFS meeting

I attended this morning's OFS meeting. We can chat more about this, but I wanted to give you a brief recap:

- Regarding Chris Waldrop's request to visit a HIMP plant with approximately 9 other consumer advocates – Dr. Hagen and Brian think this is a good idea, as long as the group takes the same tour of a non-HIMP facility, so they have a frame of reference. Brian thought it would be beneficial for them to take the same type of tour as he did.
- Australia – Dr. Hagen said the Aus/NZ trip will work for the week of April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Half-Day planning retreat – Adela, Katie, and I will work on planning this half-day offsite.
- Given today's press on "pink slime," Dr. Hagen needs talking points before Thursday's hearing. Chris Gould will get this to her.
- Carole Jett is requesting weekly "ASP" updates from the Under Secretaries.
- Chris and Oscar were scheduled to give us an update on the Administrative Services Project, but they mostly just asked what they could be doing better. Chris acknowledged that most of the 27 "low hanging fruit" items are not as easy to attain for a "quick win" as they initially thought. Dr. Hagen was very open in her assessment of the project and in giving feedback on ways to improve.

Carmen

Carmen M. Rottenberg  
Chief of Staff

Office of the Administrator

Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Ave., SW

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6618

(2)

[REDACTED]

@fsis.usda

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) @gmail.com on behalf of [Chris Berry](#)  
**To:** [Tarrant, Jeff - Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: oh, that delicious pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:47:39 PM

---

Go organic...and skip the meat...

On Fri, Mar 9, 2012 at 11:15 AM, Tarrant, Jeff - Commissioned Corps - FSIS

<[Jeff.Tarrant@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Jeff.Tarrant@fsis.usda.gov)> wrote:

Who wouldn't want pink slime in their hamburger? Oh, that's right, it reduces the price of an average hamburger by 3 cents.... So, let's feed it to school kids!!!

Reason # 253 why you should stick to organic foods. Watch the ABC World News video...

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

Jeff Tarrant  
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service  
USDA - Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Outreach, Employee Education and Training  
Washington, DC 20024  
Tel: [202.690.6497](tel:202.690.6497)  
Email: [jeff.tarrant@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:jeff.tarrant@fsis.usda.gov)

*"Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes age just shows up all by itself."*  
Tom Wilson

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--

Chris Berry  
(b) (6)

From: (b) (6)  
To: [Tarrant, Jeff - Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#)  
Subject: Re: oh, that delicious pink slime  
Date: Saturday, March 10, 2012 7:15:17 PM

---

DUDE!

You're in the USDA, nay, you are the USDA, stop this insanity!

Thank you,

(b) (6)  
LCDR USN(Ret)  
RN BSN  
Sent from my iPad

On Mar 9, 2012, at 11:15, "Tarrant, Jeff - Commissioned Corps - FSIS"  
<[Jeff.Tarrant@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Jeff.Tarrant@fsis.usda.gov)> wrote:

Who wouldn't want pink slime in their hamburger? Oh, that's right, it reduces the price of an average hamburger by 3 cents.... So, let's feed it to school kids!!!

Reason # 253 why you should stick to organic foods. Watch the ABC World News video...

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

Jeff Tarrant  
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service  
USDA - Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Outreach, Employee Education and Training  
Washington, DC 20024  
Tel: 202.690.6497  
Email: [jeff.tarrant@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:jeff.tarrant@fsis.usda.gov)

*"Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes age just shows up all by itself."*  
Tom Wilson

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Harries, Rick - FSIS; Kishore, Rita - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OIA Week  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:32:50 AM

---

Yes, it was GZ who used to work with us in IES.

Dr. (b) (6)  
Export Program Staff Officer  
Office of International Affairs  
U.S.D.A., F.S.I.S  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, 2135-S  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
Office (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:29 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Harries, Rick - FSIS; Kishore, Rita - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OIA Week

Not sure if you saw the story about these products that was on the news last week:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2012 1:08 PM  
**To:** Harries, Rick - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Kishore, Rita - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OIA Week

I will send the attachment only to labeling and request them to make the determination whether the product is raw not ground or ground. Natasha.

(b) (6). DVM.  
Export Program Staff  
Office of International Affairs  
U.S.D.A., F.S.I.S  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, 2135-S  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
Office (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Harries, Rick - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2012 12:49 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Kishore, Rita - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OIA Week

Thanks. Someone please follow up with the Labeling group.

Rick Harries  
Director, Export Programs Staff  
Office of International Affairs, FSIS, USDA

202-720-6508  
Rick.Harries@fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 12:45 PM  
To: (b) (6) FSIS; Harries, Rick - FSIS; Kishore, Rita - FSIS  
Subject: RE: OIA Week

I agree with (b) (6). Labeling division will be should be consulted in regard to this product. The way the product looks, it appears like ground beef instead of an intact beef and they are in a form of patties. Thanks. (b) (6)  
Russia requirement is :

Ineligible.

Beef and beef products other than those identified in the Eligible Products section above and in the Prepared Products section below, and all bison meat and bison meat products. Importation of ground pork and beef, packaged in bulk form or in the form of meat patties, is prohibited by the Russian authorities.

(b) (6). DVM.  
Export Program Staff  
Office of International Affairs  
U.S.D.A., F.S.I.S  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, 2135-S  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
Office (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 12:25 PM  
To: Harries, Rick - FSIS; Kishore, Rita - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: OIA Week

I can see why there are questions concerning eligibility of these products for export. Mexico lists the following as ineligible:

"Beef meat products containing advanced meat recovery, mechanically separated meat and ground meat."

One of the questions would be: Is this product classified as chopped beef (a.k.a. ground beef), a miscellaneous beef product?

It might be good to check with Roz Murphy's staff to see how they view these products. At first glance, I would tend to think of these non-intact beef products as being a miscellaneous beef product such as the ones listed in 9 CFR 319.15, which reads in part:

[http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr\\_2010/janqtr/9cfr319.15.htm](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2010/janqtr/9cfr319.15.htm)

9 CFR 319.15 Miscellaneous beef products.

(a) Chopped beef, ground beef. "Chopped Beef" or "Ground Beef" shall consist of chopped fresh and/or frozen beef with or without seasoning and without the addition of beef fat as such, shall not contain more than 30 percent fat, and shall not contain added water, phosphates, binders, or extenders. When beef cheek meat (trimmed beef cheeks) is used in the preparation of chopped or ground beef, the

amount of such cheek meat shall be limited to 25 percent; and if in excess of natural proportions, its presence shall be declared on the label, in the ingredient statement required by §317.2 of this subchapter, if any, and otherwise contiguous to the name of the product.

(d) Fabricated steak. Fabricated beef steaks, veal steaks, beef and veal steaks, or veal and beef steaks, and similar products, such as those labeled "Beef Steak, Chopped, Shaped, Frozen," "Minute Steak, Formed, Wafer Sliced, Frozen," "Veal Steaks, Beef Added, Chopped-Molded-Cubed-Frozen, Hydrolyzed Plant Protein, and Flavoring" shall be prepared by comminuting and forming the product from fresh and/or frozen meat, with or without added fat, of the species indicated on the label. Such products shall not contain more than 30 percent fat and shall not contain added water or extenders. Transglutaminase enzyme at levels of up to 65 ppm may be used as a binder. Beef cheek meat (trimmed beef cheeks) may be used in the preparation of fabricated beef steaks only in accordance with the conditions prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section.

-----Original Message-----

From: Harries, Rick - FSIS

Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 12:00 PM

To: Kishore, Rita - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: FW: OIA Week

Please take a look at this related to export to Russia and Mexico. If you have questions, please compile them and then a conference call can be arranged with the processor. Thanks.

Rick Harries  
Director, Export Programs Staff  
Office of International Affairs, FSIS, USDA  
202-720-6508  
Rick.Harries@fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Barb Masters [mailto:(b) (6)@ofwlaw.com]

Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 3:41 PM

To: Harries, Rick - FSIS

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: RE: OIA Week

Rick

I am attaching a high level overview of two of BPI's products - frozen beef chips and frozen lean beef blocks. They make one additional product and we will provide a copy of that process as well.

I am cc'ing Craig Letch from BPI. He will be available to answer your questions and as appropriate we can set up a call or whatever you need to answer your (and your staffs) questions.

Have a great weekend.

Barb

-----Original Message-----

From: Harries, Rick - FSIS [mailto:Rick.Harries@fsis.usda.gov]

Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 12:09 PM

To: Barb Masters

Subject: RE: OIA Week

Yes, but is there some written material that describes the product that we could review? Thanks.

Rick Harries  
Director, Export Programs Staff  
Office of International Affairs, FSIS, USDA

202-720-6508  
Rick.Harries@fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Barb Masters [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\) @ofwlaw.com](mailto:(b) (6) @ofwlaw.com)]

Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 11:42 AM

To: Harries, Rick - FSIS

Subject: Fw: OIA Week

Dr. Harries

Greetings. Please see the below. I am working with BPI on the possibility of exporting their raw, non-intact beef to Russia and Mexico. Because their product is unique there have been questions on eligibility. It is a component for ground.

Could we possibly set up a time to visit with you on this question?

Many thanks.

Barb

(b) (6)

----- Original Message -----

From: Jones, Ronald - FSIS <[Ronald.Jones@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Ronald.Jones@fsis.usda.gov)>

To: Barb Masters

Cc: Harries, Rick - FSIS <[Rick.Harries@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Rick.Harries@fsis.usda.gov)>; Kishore, Rita - FSIS  
<[Rita.Kishore@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Rita.Kishore@fsis.usda.gov)>

Sent: Thu Mar 01 11:32:43 2012

Subject: RE: OIA Week

Good morning Barb. Sorry for taking so long to get back to you. Yes the correct person is Dr. Harries.

Regards,

Ronald

Ronald K. Jones, DVM

Assistant Administrator

FSIS, Office of International Affairs

Desk: 202-720-2442

Main: 202-720 3473

FAX: 202-690-3856

From: Barb Masters [<mailto:bmasters@ofwlaw.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 10:21 AM



To: Jones, Ronald - FSIS  
Subject: OIA Week

Ron

Must be OIA week. I am working with BPI Products on another issue. They are considering the possibility of exporting to Mexico or Russia. As I am certain you are familiar, they make a ground beef component product. Because of PHIS they have a new classification in the plant profile, raw, non-intact. Their product is non-intact - but it is not ground - it is definitely a component for ground.

The front line supervisor was not certain of the eligibility of their product for Mexico or Russia (due to ground being ineligible for these countries). Since their process is unique, I can understand the question.

Can you send me to the correct OIA contact to work through this issue? BPI would be happy to brief them on the issue, their process, etc. I assume it would likely be Dr. Haries, but wanted to be certain.

As always - a pleasure working with you and your team!

Thanks!

Barb

(b) (6) @ofwlaw.com

(b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: OMG The Doctors  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2012 3:25:41 PM

---

I will admit they are getting more of the facts correct than usual but it still sounds horrible.  
Now I get to find out what is in Ice cream.

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 3:20 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OMG The Doctors

Wonderful. These shows do have a tendency to trigger inquires.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 3:14 PM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** OMG The Doctors

Right now on the Doctors they are doing "What is in your food." They just showed "pink slime" and next up is Chemical baths etc for poultry. This episode will probably be on tomorrow morning too. YUCK!!! Phones will be ringing tomorrow.

Though they are saying "This stuff is ok, to lower Ecoli, but ammonium hydroxide (floor cleaner!!!)

(b) (6) Senior Technical Advisor  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

Phone (b) (6) Fax(202) 245-4792

1400 Independence Ave., S.W. - Stop 3784  
Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor Room 8-161A  
Washington, DC 20250

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

**Please include your name and/or company name, phone number and complete e-mail address so that we may promptly reply to your inquires.**

FSIS, Labeling and Program Delivery Division

**Website:** <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/larc/index.htm>

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: On call weekend April 23 - 25th  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:33:11 AM

---

..not to mention the 'pink slime' calls..??

That will get anyone's head 'spinning' ☺

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: On call weekend April 23 - 25th

Hi,

Yes, sorry. I was so busy last Friday trying to get everything done knowing that I would be out of the office for two weeks my head was spinning.

I did mean March. Can someone please cover for me this weekend?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSES Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D

5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: On call weekend April 23 - 25th

Did you mean March???

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**  
Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854  
or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 5:29 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** On call weekend April 23 - 25th

Hi,

I'm so sorry I forgot I will not be in town during my on-call weekend. Can someone cover for me? Please!

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) **RD RN**  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: one pink slime call  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:21:16 PM

---

Hurray!

..was it a fun call?? Ha ha

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** one pink slime call

One for (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/F SIS Food Safety Education Staff

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, Maryland 20705

Office (b) (6)

Fax (301) 504-2092

e-mail (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** [Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC](#)  
**To:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Ronholm, Brian - OSEC](#); [Almanza, Al - FSIS](#); [Ramos, Adela - OSEC](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** Re: OPED from Former FSIS Administrator going out today  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:14:43 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

This is good. Hopefully others will continue to carry and balance the story.

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 08:10 AM  
**To:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ronholm, Brian - OSEC; Almanza, Al - FSIS; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** OPED from Former FSIS Administrator going out today

This came our way from BPI staff – Cross is a former administrator at FSIS

## IS SARAH PALIN STUPID?

So is she? Is Sarah Palin stupid? If you watch ABC, NBC or CBS – yep, she is dumb as dirt. If you get your news from Fox News, she is brilliant and insightful. What about Al Gore? Is he an environmental nut case? Watch Fox News and you will be convinced he couldn't change a flat tire. The "main stream" networks will present him as forward thinking and intellectual. Rush Limbaugh? Bill Maher? The source of your news will slant the information you are provided and, if you are not careful, your ultimate opinion on the individual or issue. News organizations know that their ratings, and therefore their revenue, depend on loyal viewers. And viewers are only loyal when the news grabs their attention or their fear.

Today the news is all about Lean Fine-Textured Beef (LFTB) or "pink slime" as ABC has boldly labeled it. To hear Diane Sawyer describe it, ABC News has completed an exhaustive "investigation" to protect you from exposure to something that is presented as another vile and devious plot of the beef industry. Their exposé has provided a public service by showing consumers that they are unknowingly eating something meant for pet food, and the public outcry has undoubtedly boosted their ratings and generated potential advertiser revenues. Never mind that the information provided was false and misleading. Does that really matter? Not really. Just place that information in context with everything else you are hearing: Sarah Palin is stupid, Al Gore is an environmental wing nut, Barak Obama is a Socialist, you are eating pink slime.

What are the facts? Does it matter? Public perception is all that matters when you have a product to sell. We understand that it is impossible to market a product that exists counter to public perception. We can't tell the consumer that raw meat may contain pathogenic bacteria and that they need to use a thermometer in the kitchen to make sure they cook it properly. We tell them instead that our regulatory agencies require extensive testing of ground beef and the product they buy can be assured to be safe. Hogwash.

Are you familiar with the expression "sick and tired?" That's where we are right now. We are

sick and tired of the news media hijacking the truth, eliminating science, frightening consumers and creating a false crisis, just to boost their ratings. We have seen too many people hurt, too many businesses destroyed, all for the benefit of some talking head's career. We are fed up. And we hope the food industry is fed up as well.

It is time to stand up and defend the U.S. food industry. The only people who can do that are the people who know the truth, and that is not the news media or some random "consumer on the street." We need to all stand up and defend our colleagues in the food industry who are being wrongly accused. Individuals are powerless against the news media, but the food producing community as a whole is strong. How many of us ran for the shadows when "pink slime" was "exposed?" Don't expect anyone to come to your aid when a ridiculous story is broadcast on your product. And, believe us, that situation is right around the corner. Do you think you have science on your side? That didn't help "pink slime" and it won't help you unless we all (industry and academia) stand up and speak the truth.

It is time for all of us to rise up and stop this nonsense. Sarah Palin is not brilliant, but she is not stupid. Al Gore acts a little nutty, but he has a passion for the environment and is trying to get people to take notice. Lean Fine-Textured Beef is not unsafe, deceptive or pet food. I (Cross) approved the use of this product in food when I was Administrator of FSIS because it is safe and an excellent source of nutrients. In this age of sustainability, it would be insane to waste millions of pounds of excellent protein. We need to stand up and be the clear-thinking, informed source of information – before it is too late.

(b) (6)

**Aaron Lavallee**

Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office Direct: 202.720.6959

Cell: (b) (6)

[aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov)

<http://www.usda.gov>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OPPD Referral Letter  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:59:07 PM

---

I'm not sure, please give me a call to discuss further.

(b) (6)  
Management Analyst  
USDA/FSIS/OPEER/ICAD  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 690-0071

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:50 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OPPD Referral Letter

Cool – Thank you – By the way, what is the A area of the building?

(b) (6)  
(b) (6)  
Internal Control and Audit Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:35 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OPPD Referral Letter

That's the attachment for the case. The letter (OIG Hotline Complaint), should have been attached in my previous e-mail. Ok well it looks like I sent you the attachment already, so here is the OIG hotline complaint.

<< File: 24340294fsis.docx >>

(b) (6)  
Management Analyst  
USDA/FSIS/OPEER/ICAD  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 690-0071

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:41 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OPPD Referral Letter

OK – Thanks – then no letter from (b) (6).

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Internal Control and Audit Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: OPPD Referral Letter

As discussed.

<< File: ICAD-12-0040 attachment.htm >>

(b) (6)  
Management Analyst  
USDA/FSIS/OPEER/ICAD  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 690-0071

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:10 AM  
**To:** Reaves, Natalie - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OPPD Referral Letter

Thanks because he just asked.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Internal Control and Audit Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:59 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OPPD Referral Letter

Yes, I'll forward that to you.

(b) (6)

Management Analyst  
USDA/FSIS/OPEER/ICAD  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202) 690-0071

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: OPPD Referral Letter

Vince is back – will have signatures today –

Was there a letter from the OIG for the Pink Slime referral? He will ask.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

Internal Control and Audit Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 4:22 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** OPPD Referral Letter

(b) (6)

Please see the attached referral letter to OPPD prepared for Vince's signature as well as attached documents. Any questions, please let me know, thank you.

<< File: ICAD-12-0040 attachment.htm >> << File: OPPD Referral Letter ICAD-12-0040 3-13-12 ds edits.docx >>

(b) (6)

Management Analyst  
USDA/FSIS/OPEER/ICAD  
1400 Independence Ave, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 690-0071

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:30:48 AM

---

Checking with our policy folks now – will respond as soon as we have an answer. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:18 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

NOP does not allow ammonia hydroxide. Washington State Beef is saying it is allowed per FSIS. Are we in agreement that this is not allowed in organic?

Thanks Mike

**From:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:27:02 AM

---

No, just the anhydrous ammonium. I think there are several organic acids that can be used as processing aids for organic beef.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director

LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA

(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_Fsis/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:20 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

Are you following up with NOP for every processing aid used in meat and poultry processing? I didn't think you were. During slaughter, virtually every establishment uses processing aid (antimicrobial) during slaughter. Are you now saying that organic beef is processed without any processing aid? I don't think this is accurate.

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 09:43 AM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

(b) (6) is calling NOP now.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director

LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA

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**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:43 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

Do we have confirmation that this processing aid (anhydrous ammonium) is prohibited?

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 09:05 AM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

Yes, it may be treated but doesn't have to be. You can use LFTB in organic beef provided it is not treated with anhydrous ammonium.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792  
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**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:03 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

LFTB may or may not be treated with anhydrous ammonium.

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 08:57 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Cc:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Ballard, Tammie - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

We can consult with NOP on the use of GRAS processing aids on organic beef. However, ammoniated finely textured beef cannot be used in organic beef or products containing organic beef. When we approve labels for products that contain organic beef they must include an organic certificate that comes from the organic certifier. If a substance is not permitted, then an organic certificate would not be issued for the beef.

(b) (6) – can you go to NOP and confirm what I have stated below?

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director

LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA

(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

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Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_Fsis/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:47 AM

**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Cc:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

To go a step further – can “organic” beef include Finely Textured Lean Beef?

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:30 AM

**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Cc:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

Roz,

I hope that this falls under your purview – if not, I hope you can let me know a better point of contact. We are getting a fair amount of interest in Lean Finely Textured Beef and our colleagues in AMS tell us that the National Organic Program does not allow ammonia hydroxide, but Washington State Beef says FSIS allows organic beef to use GRAS processing aids.

Is FSIS policy to allow NH4OH in organic beef? Thanks in advance for your help. Best ~ Brian



**Brian K. Mabry**  
**Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs**  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:18 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

NOP does not allow ammonia hydroxide. Washington State Beef is saying it is allowed per FSIS. Are we in agreement that this is not allowed in organic?

Thanks Mike

---

**From:** McEvoy, Miles - AMS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 6:31 AM  
**To:** Kim, Soo - AMS  
**Cc:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** FW: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

Is ABC or FSIS saying that organic beef can use ammonia hydroxide? That is not correct and needs to be clarified with them. Thanks.

Miles

---

**From:** Bialic, Trudy [<mailto:trudy.bialic@pccsea.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

Hi (b) (6) and (b) (6)

You'll see below the Washington State Beef Commission is saying, "According to FSIS, **organic beef can and does use GRAS processing aids, such as ammonia hydroxide.**"

I do not see ammonium hydroxide allowed as a processing aide, according to my reading of the National List.

But please correct my oversight if I am wrong. I am a stickler for accuracy, and appreciate that you can confirm, or correct, my view here.

Best,

Trudy Bialic

Director, Public Affairs | PCC Natural Markets, Seattle, Wash. 98105 | 206-547-1222

---

**From:** Rob Noel [<mailto:rnoel@wabeeff.org>]

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:27 AM

**To:** Rob Noel

**Subject:** FW: Beef Issue FYI: ABC Follow-Up Story on "Pink Slime"

Please see below for information we just received on ABC News' second news segment on Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB).

**Rob Noel**

*Director of Promotions*

Washington State Beef Commission

14240 Interurban Avenue S.

Suite 224

Seattle, WA 98168

206-444-2902



Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

### **ABC Follow-Up Story on "Pink Slime"**

*March 9, 2012*

On Thursday evening, [ABC News](#) ran a second news segment on lean finely textured beef (LFTB), often called "pink slime." The first segment, which aired on Wednesday evening, generated significant media attention, including local broadcast coverage and online conversations. The second segment suggests that consumers consume organic beef in order to avoid this process.

This is inaccurate information--the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) consider ammonia hydroxide, which is used to make LFTB, a "[generally recognized as safe](#)" (GRAS) food additive. According to [FSIS](#), organic beef can and

does use GRAS processing aids, such as ammonia hydroxide. We believe that the entire beef community needs to unite and reassure consumers that all beef--regardless of how it is raised--is safe and nutritious.

Several beef industry groups have issued statements in response to these media reports, including the [American Meat Institute](#), [National Meat Association](#) and [Beef Products, Inc.](#) FSIS, the public health agency in the United States Department of Agriculture responsible for ensuring the nation's food supply is safe, has also provided media a statement assuring consumers that beef is safe. This statement has been used in media reports, including this [FoxNews.com](#) segment.

H. Russell Cross, Ph.D., Professor and Head of Department of Animal Science, Texas A&M University, who is attending the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Beef Safety Summit this week, released the statement below. Dr. Cross is the former Administrator of FSIS and was with the agency when lean finely textured beef was approved, and therefore, contributes a very valuable and unique viewpoint to this discussion. We are working with Texas A&M to share this statement with media.

Additional resources, including an AMI Meat MythCrusher video and a fact sheet on LFTB, can be found [ExploreBeef.org](#). Additionally, the International Food Information Council has a [fact sheet on the use of ammonia hydroxide in other foods](#).

*Funded by The Beef Checkoff*

# # #

**Statement From H. Russell Cross, Ph.D.  
Professor and Head of Department of Animal Science, Texas A&M  
University**

"As Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) in the early 90s, I and my staff evaluated numerous research projects before approving lean, finely textured beef as a safe source of high-quality protein. The FSIS safety review process was and is an in-depth, science-based process that spans years, many research projects and involves many experts across all levels of the agency-and in this case, the process proved the product is safe."

"Approving lean finely textured beef as safe was the right decision, and today, it remains a safe way to meet the nutritional needs of a growing population. All beef is a good or excellent source of 10 essential nutrients including protein, iron, zinc and B-vitamins.

"Finely textured lean beef helps us meet consumer demand for safe, affordable and nutritious food."

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#); [Ballard, Tammie - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:15:53 AM

---

Thank you so much, and thanks for including us in any follow-up. I'm sure we will continue to get questions. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
**Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs**  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:58 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Cc:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Ballard, Tammie - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

We can consult with NOP on the use of GRAS processing aids on organic beef. However, ammoniated finely textured beef cannot be used in organic beef or products containing organic beef. When we approve labels for products that contain organic beef they must include an organic certificate that comes from the organic certifier. If a substance is not permitted, then an organic certificate would not be issued for the beef.

**(b) (6)** – can you go to NOP and confirm what I have stated below?

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

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Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About FSIS/labeling & consumer protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Outreach Questions  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 5:51:44 PM

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No problem. I have several self inflicted gunshot wounds on subjects like this so I have gotten pretty savvy at knowing when the gun is loaded and which direction I should be pointing the muzzle.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 3:49 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Outreach Questions

Here is the verdict, just what we thought which is fine, better to work the proper channels and not be in a bind especially with my name in the hat for a EIAO position. I talked with (b) (6) wife again and told her I would be more than happy to do a food safety talk with her group or other individuals in the school district and she said possibly July or August with her cooking staff and understood why I couldn't comment about the pink slime. Thanks for the advice on this topic!

---

**From:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 3:29 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Outreach Questions

(b) (6)

The talk would be great, however, you didn't allow me enough time to order supplies. As my previous email stated, I need at least 2 to 3 weeks notice. There is no way to get you supplies by the 4th. As for pink slime, my advice is to simply state you are not in a position to comment on it at this time. Right now the political sector is addressing it. Sorry I didn't have the information you were probably hoping for.

Anna

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 03:49 PM  
**To:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS  
**Subject:** Outreach Questions

Good afternoon Anna,

I received a request today from the Director of Food Services from the San Juan County School District in regards to doing a talk about food safety and the recent hot topic about "pink slime" at their principals meeting that will be held on April 4, 2012. The group is roughly around 20-25 people and I know this is short notice on receiving supplies from you and whatever materials are needed for the outreach side of things. My one concern in which I want to get some input from you is in regards to "pink slime" are we allowed to talk about this subject matter in the areas of what it is and talk about the food safety

aspects of this particular product etc.. I spoke with my SPHV Dr. (b) (6) and his advice to me was to contact you on this issue in particular and where the agency and our district stand on this issue. I believe the school district out here is using ground beef products that contain LFTB in their school lunch program due to budget constraints they can't change to product that doesn't contain LFTB and so there is some concerns and possible misconceptions within people in the school district about the safety and nutrition of this product. I said that I knew that I could do a talk about food safety, but wasn't sure about the LFTB in product they use and that I would need to check with my district contact person. If you can let me know at your earliest convenience about this issue that would be great and also let me know where I can find the proper curriculum for my food safety discussion that would be great and possible goodies if you can swing that also. Thanks for your time and have a great day, if you need to contact me at all my contact info is below.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)



Consumer Safety Inspector/Inspector In Charge

Blue Mountain Meats, Inc. Est#02825

333 South 2nd East

Monticello, UT 84535

Phone: (b) (6)

**From:** [Gallegos, Anna - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Outreach Questions  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 5:46:28 PM

---

You sure can

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 04:43 PM  
**To:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Outreach Questions

Anna,

I realize it was pretty short notice as for me as well. I can contact her again to see if I can reschedule so that I have the proper outreach materials and allow you adequate time to obtain the materials also. I'm glad I checked with you on the "pink slime" issue that way I can give a more professional answer as to why I'm unable to talk about this topic since it is so sensitive at this time. I will let you know if she wants to reschedule that way we can have the proper materials needed. Thanks a bunch and have a great weekend!

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 3:29 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Outreach Questions

(b) (6)

The talk would be great, however, you didn't allow me enough time to order supplies. As my previous email stated, I need at least 2 to 3 weeks notice. There is no way to get you supplies by the 4th. As for pink slime, my advice is to simply state you are not in a position to comment on it at this time. Right now the political sector is addressing it. Sorry I didn't have the information you were probably hoping for.

Anna



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Outreach Questions  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 5:52:56 PM

---

And if nothing else comes of this Anna has now heard of Tom Griego when the applications cross her desk.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 3:49 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Outreach Questions

Here is the verdict, just what we thought which is fine, better to work the proper channels and not be in a bind especially with my name in the hat for a EIAO position. I talked with (b) (6) wife again and told her I would be more than happy to do a food safety talk with her group or other individuals in the school district and she said possibly July or August with her cooking staff and understood why I couldn't comment about the pink slime. Thanks for the advice on this topic!

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: PAD Meeting Notes: 2/7/12  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 12:02:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

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Nice!

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 11:17 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: PAD Meeting Notes: 2/7/12

At first I wondered what 90157 was... but it's really non-O157. ☺

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Chan, Stephanie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 11:06 AM  
**To:** WCTS - Public Affairs Directors  
**Subject:** PAD Meeting Notes: 2/7/12

**PAD Meeting Notes**  
February 7, 2012

**OC**

- Budget Rollout: Monday, Feb. 13. Rollout will be similar to ones in the past, OC will be working with agencies to develop responses. Coordinators ought to be looped on all inquiries. Secretary will meet with in-house reporters for roundtable, will likely also do radio bridge with regional outlets.
- Art and Ag Competition: It's the last month of this competition and submissions are due! Contact Carolyn O'Connor with questions
- Communications plans: will be going to Secretary this week.
- Travel:
  - o IA: With FLOTUS on Thursday. Friday event will be in Aimes, SOTU roundtable
  - o Monday: Meeting with Chinese officials
  - o Wednesday: Testifying before Senate committee on Energy and Rural Dev.
  - o Thursday: IA, China focus
  - o Friday: Testifying on House Ag Approps
  - o Feb 23: Ag Outlook Forum:
  - o Feb 24: Orlando, FL
  - o Feb 29: KYF Rollout
  - o Early March: Live TV town hall with RFD TV, Commodity Classic
  - o Early March: NFU, Omaha
- Deputy Secretary Travel: Series of events with KYF rollout
  - o Germany: EU organic equivalency agreement
- Secretary Budget Statement: Will share on Monday
- New Media- Top Blogs:
  - o [Healthy Meals and Healthy Kids](#) (January 25, 2011): 1,778 Pageviews
  - o [Bringing Back the Bees](#) (January 26): 1,733Pageviews
  - o [Organic 101: Allowed and Prohibited Substances](#) (January 25): 1,567 Pageviews

**RMA**

- Weather Channel: Working on piece on weather losses
- Several one-on-ones on weather changes impacting crop insurance
- New PA director: Will start Feb. 27

**FSA**

- Immobile Access Features: Friday
- Office consolidation inquiries: still ongoing, administrator is still out in the field at hearings
- Disaster Designation: Half dozen in queue, likely for end of next week
- Highly erodible announcement at Pheasant Fest end of next week

**FAS**

- Working on Chinese officials visit
- Sent materials w/ China focus to Bobby for trade op-ed
- Working on Remarks for U.S. Brazil mtg
- Next week, main focus is China

**REE**

- U/S Woteki: WH for global advisory panel. Will distribute advisory, blog post and release.
- Monday: D U/S Bartuska will speak to nat. institute on water resources (closed press)

**ERS**

- Farm Income Briefing: Feb. 13, release will be at 11 a.m.
- Community food proj grant: in OC for clearance for Thurs/early next week
- 4H Annual meeting (Feb 24-29): Working on release

**RD**

- U/S Tonsager: In Bangor this week, highlighting job creation
- Jobs Accelerator: Will share draft release with OC
- Housing event in FL: Discussing possible venues for housing event.
- \$28 M Broadband loan: Possible announcement
- RCDI NOFA: Going to be on Feb 15

**OCE**

- Glauber: En route to Rome this afternoon
- Working on forum logistics and details

**FNS**

- Jean: Will be out next week, Susan is acting
- Script-Howard: Working with outlets on this inquiry
- Radio Bilingue: Requested interview in Spanish on school meals rule
- WIC formula for sale on Craigslist in Pennsylvania: may have inquiries on this, coordinating TPs on this
- Healthy Hunger Free Kids: late Feb.
- Possible media roundtable with U/S on summer food: Mid Feb
- March: School Breakfast week, nutrition month
- Let's move op-ed: Sent info to Bobby last night
- Sac Bee Ed Board: With Kevin Concannon today

**CNPP**

- Nothing to report

**FS**

- Airtanker: Letter to be signed by Friday
- Secure Rural Schools: Likely any Friday
- Restoration: Still seeing good coverage on this
- iTree: Release coming up in the next weeks on tree cover decline. Possibly late next week

**NRCS**

- Chief: Nat'l association of conservation district last week, several interviews with NAFB.
- Anne Mills: In FL this week speaking on biodiesel, speech at western states water council next week. Also has interview with Reuters on conditions and trends in Mississippi river basin
- Soil App: Up today, will be tweeted and blogged on
- Feb 29: Chief will speak at Sen ag committee hearing on conservation
- Release on Lake Erie conservation projects, working lands for wildlife

#### **APHIS**

- Veterinary Services: Release for this week
- Genetically engineered eucalypts: This week
- AP Call on CEM: Will continue keeping OC in the loop on this. Will likely set up background convo for tomorrow

#### **AMS**

- NOFA releases: One today, specialty crop block grant will go tomorrow
- EU release: Cleared by OC

#### **FSIS**

- Pink Slime stories: looks like it's behind us
- Hard cooked egg recall: FDA recalled this morning
- 90157 Announcement: working with Aaron on this
- Summer Grilling Safety Tips: working on piece with Rachael Ray magazine for summer
- Michael Moss: Flag that he is working on book, please coordinate inquiries with OC

*Stephanie Chan*

*Deputy Press Secretary, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Desk: (202) 720-5555 / Cell: (202) 256-8626  
[Stephanie.chan@oc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.chan@oc.usda.gov)*

*Stay Connected with USDA:*



**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: PA-MD-DE-VA 2012 Annual Leave Schedule approved 12-15-11.xlsm  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 2:37:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Very excited about prizes. I'd like chicken dust or the ingredient list for scrapple.

Did you get the pictures I sent?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 2:19 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: PA-MD-DE-VA 2012 Annual Leave Schedule approved 12-15-11.xlsm

I asked my boss she hasn't responded but she has been out of the office all week she had to do Midyear reviews in Champlain, NY. I asked her if we could at least get you some handouts...some prizes special for you.

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@umfs.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 2:12 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: PA-MD-DE-VA 2012 Annual Leave Schedule approved 12-15-11.xlsm

Can you bring some pink slime with you?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:00 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: PA-MD-DE-VA 2012 Annual Leave Schedule approved 12-15-11.xlsm

I am already off one week in July and all the rest of August is taken already (that seems crazy for me to worry about since I am going someplace else but they have to honor the weeks that I already have scheduled) so maybe I will just leave it as is for now and take that week in June and then change it later if I can. Thanks.

I will talk to my boss. I think that I have to get approval to come and talk maybe get you guys some meat thermometers. Just whatever you do no pink slime questions I am tired of them.

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@umfs.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 12:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: PA-MD-DE-VA 2012 Annual Leave Schedule approved 12-15-11.xlsm

Look at you with the formal Good Morning. I couldn't figure out if this was forwarded or not for a minute. The school year ends June 19<sup>th</sup> and summer school begins June 25<sup>th</sup>. I don't have summer school on Fridays ever and I get out at 2 on Thursdays. So if worse comes to worse a three day weekend could work. Summer school is done the 9<sup>th</sup> of August.

Where do we get to go? Maybe we can find a condo presentation to listen to, so our hotel will be free.

Enjoy the art work. There is more.....

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:59 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** PA-MD-DE-VA 2012 Annual Leave Schedule approved 12-15-11.xlsm

Good morning,

I have to make up a week of vacation from the week I didn't take off while I was in Atlanta; and, the week after I come back I am only going to take off Mon and maybe Tuesday. I thought maybe we could take a mini-vacation sometime this summer. Please look at the attached schedule. I can take any week that someone else hasn't already taken. The whole month of June is available and a couple weeks in July but that's about it. Let me know. Hope your having a good day. ☺



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--

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**(b) (6)**

(b) (6)  
Teacher, Charterhouse School  
**UMFS**  
3900 West Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23230  
Tel: (804) 353-4461, Ext: (b) (6)  
Fax: (804) 353-3061  
Web: [www.umfs.org](http://www.umfs.org)

Follow us!  

Message from: (b) (6) [@umfs.org](mailto:(b) (6)@umfs.org)

Message to: (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Attached files: 2

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From: [cindy.deyrup](#)  
To: [Kishore, Rita - FSIS](#)  
Subject: Re: Pat  
Date: Monday, March 05, 2012 9:16:40 PM

---

No, I occasionally get an article from Carl, but he didn't send me this one. I wonder where Zirnstein is now. (b) (6) [REDACTED] voiced a complaint that chicken sampling was inadequate and got written up.

If you add inferior product to something, I thought it was adulteration. But I guess anything goes with processed food. Taco Bell didn't call it hamburger; they sold it as a taco.

I finally called (b) (6) whose foot healed months ago.

On Mon, Mar 5, 2012 at 1:53 PM, Kishore, Rita - FSIS <[Rita.Kishore@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Rita.Kishore@fsis.usda.gov)> wrote:

Cindy,

You are so good and keep in touch with everyone. Do you still get (b) (6) updates. Here is one from today.

Rita

**US: Partners in 'slime'**

05.mar.12

The Daily

David Knowles

<http://www.thedaily.com/page/2012/03/05/030512-news-pink-slime-1-3/>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's continued purchase of so-called pink slime for school lunches makes no sense, according to two former microbiologists at the Food Safety Inspection Service.

"I have a 2-year-old son," microbiologist Gerald Zirnstein told The Daily. "And you better believe I don't want him eating pink slime when he starts going to school."

It was Zirnstein who first coined the term "pink slime" after touring a Beef Products Inc. production facility in 2002 as part of an investigation into salmonella contamination in packaged ground beef. In an email to his colleagues shortly after the visit, Zirnstein said he did not "consider the stuff to be ground beef."

Made by grinding together connective tissue and beef scraps normally destined for dog food and rendering, BPI's Lean Beef Trimmings are then treated with ammonia hydroxide, a process that kills pathogens such as salmonella and E. coli.

The resulting pinkish substance is later blended into traditional ground beef and

hamburger patties.

For retired microbiologist Carl Custer, a 35-year veteran of the Food Safety Inspection Service, the idea of mixing in BPI's Lean Beef Trimmings into more nutritious, pure ground beef was itself problematic.

"We originally called it soylent pink," Custer told The Daily. "We looked at the product and we objected to it because it used connective tissues instead of muscle. It was simply not nutritionally equivalent [to ground beef]. My main objection was that it was not meat."

Custer said he first encountered the product — which gained fame recently as "pink slime" in part due to the efforts of celebrity chef Jamie Oliver — back in the late 1990s. Despite voicing his concerns to other officials at the food inspection service, however, the USDA ruled that Lean Beef Trimmings were safe. "The word in the office was that undersecretary JoAnn Smith pushed it through, and that was that," Custer said.

Appointed by President George H.W. Bush in 1989, Smith had deep ties with the beef industry, serving as president of both the Florida Cattlemen's Association and the of the National Cattlemen's Association.

"Scientists in D.C. were pressured to approve this stuff with minimal safety approval," Zirnstein said.

A baseline study conducted by Zirnstein and Custer classified the trimmings as a "high risk product." Zirnstein says the food inspection service ignored their findings, and commissioned a separate study to assess the safety of BPI's meat.

The USDA, which plans to buy 7 million pounds of Lean Beef Trimmings from BPI in the coming months for the national school lunch program, said in a statement that all of its ground beef purchases "meet the highest standard for food safety." USDA officials also noted that the sole role of the food inspection service is to determine the overall safety of the nation's food supply, not to make judgments on a product's relative merits.

But Zirnstein and Custer say that the USDA now finds itself in the odd position of purchasing a product that has recently been dropped by fast-food giants McDonald's, Burger King and Taco Bell.

---

**From:** cindy deyrup [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 11:12 PM

**To:** Kishore, Rita - FSIS

**Subject:** Fwd: Pat

(b) (6) had a hole in her retina. The doc thinks she has had it for a year. She just underwent surgery to sew up the hole. The tough part is the first 10 days. She has to avoid lying on her back, even while asleep.

After the operation, you have to stay pretty immobile while your body replaces the aqueous humor that was removed during the operation.

I'd seen her a couple weeks ago. We had lunch at the Minerva, a really nice Indian restaurant. She mentioned that she can't see out of that eye

and was going to the retina group. A friend of mine was about to undergo an operation similar to (b) (6) and I described the recovery period. (b) (6) sent me an email a couple days later, after she'd seen the retina group. She never dreamt that she'd be undergoing the same operation as my other friend.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) @aol.com >

Date: Tue, Feb 28, 2012 at 11:25 AM

Subject: Pat

To: (b) (6) @gmail.com

Hi Cindy,

This is Roger. (b) (6) asked me to send you a msg & thank you for the card. That was very thoughtful of you. (b) (6) had the surgery yesterday afternoon. It lasted about 45 minutes. She has a huge bandage covering her eye. We're going to the doctor today & I believe he's going to remove it. They gave us a package with bandages & eye drops in it & said to take it with us so I imagine he's probably going to put on a smaller bandage. (b) (6) made it thru the night ok. She can't sleep on her back, she has to stay on her right or left side. That's rough for her 'cause she always sleeps on her back. She did pretty good with keeping her head bent down but that's got to take it's toll on her. We rented a massage chair for her from a place over in Vienna & she's been using it too. It's seems pretty comfortable for her but she still has to get up & stretch once in a while. She's allowed half an hour to sit up & eat & to bathe. 8 more days & counting. She said she won't be normal for two months.

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: peer review pink slime at retail?  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:43:05 AM

---

Nevermind. Hope you are doing ok.

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (b) (6)  
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[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:14 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** peer review pink slime at retail?

If you would have time to take a look, I'd greatly appreciate it. I wasn't sure where to put in the line about Kroger announcing they weren't going to have it anymore?

Tell me what you think.

Thank you!

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
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[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [McKean, Jennifer - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: PHIS data  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 12:54:14 PM

---

Very interesting. Thanks.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** McKean, Jennifer - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 11:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** PHIS data

Here are the tasks completed at the three plants in the North Richland Hills assignment. Please note the ID warehouse. Only two tasks performed during the entire time I ran the report (12/1/11 through 3/16/12) which tells me he hasn't been there and has not signed a single export certificate there according to PHIS data.

He has tons of tasks scheduled but not very many actually completed. Also interestingly enough he is completing AMR tasks (I know that Tyson does not do AMR product) as well as PDFBFT which is basically the "pink slime" produced at BPI and some of the other big beef plants (pretty sure they don't make it at the Tyson in North Richland Hills).

I am going to send screen shots of his task calendar in some separate emails. That way you can see what days pre op was scheduled and performed, as well as when he has it scheduled for next week. If you need help interpreting this stuff, let me know. << File: Tasks\_E\_DataDump20184.xls >> << File: Tasks\_E\_DataDump2933.xls >> << File: Tasks\_E\_DataDump2289.xls >>

Jennifer Beasley-McKean, DVM

District Manager

Dallas District Office

1100 Commerce Street Rm 516

Dallas, TX 75242

(214) 767-1253

**From:** [McKean, Jennifer - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: PHIS data  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 1:42:36 PM

---

(b) (6) said he had already discussed with Dr. (b) (6) and (b) (6) the fact that he should not be documenting those tasks because those processes are not in use. He instructed (b) (6) and Dr. (b) (6) to remove those tasks, but I guess they haven't done that yet.

Jennifer Beasley-McKean, DVM

District Manager

Dallas District Office

1100 Commerce Street Rm 516

Dallas, TX 75242

(214) 767-1253

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 11:54 AM  
**To:** McKean, Jennifer - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: PHIS data

Very interesting. Thanks.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** McKean, Jennifer - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 11:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** PHIS data

Here are the tasks completed at the three plants in the North Richland Hills assignment. Please note the ID warehouse. Only two tasks performed during the entire time I ran the report (12/1/11 through 3/16/12) which tells me he hasn't been there and has not signed a single export certificate there according to PHIS data.

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I am going to send screen shots of his task calendar in some separate emails. That way

you can see what days pre op was scheduled and performed, as well as when he has it scheduled for next week. If you need help interpreting this stuff, let me know. << File: Tasks\_E\_DataDump20184.xls >> << File: Tasks\_E\_DataDump2933.xls >> << File: Tasks\_E\_DataDump2289.xls >>

Jennifer Beasley-McKean, DVM

District Manager

Dallas District Office

1100 Commerce Street Rm 516

Dallas, TX 75242

(214) 767-1253

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6)  
[REDACTED] for the OFS monthly to the OSec  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 5:30:22 PM

---

No problem. Have a good weekend too.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 02:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: PHIS updates for the OFS monthly to the OSec

Thanks for responding, (b) (6) I really wasn't certain what to say...for that matter, I really wasn't certain what all the acronyms meant in the original email. ☺

Have a great weekend,

(b) (6)

Hello (b) (6)

Here's a draft response to (b) (6) for your review and comment.

PHIS:

FSIS is further along the process of gathering requirements to update all PHIS training materials and procedures. This will include an update to the in-class system and will eventually include imports after deployment.

Pink slime:

Ammoniated products such as Lean Finely Textured Beef are addressed in the Food Safety Regulatory Essentials class. No changes to that information are planned in the immediate future.

Non-O157-STECS:

Information about non-O157 STECS is currently included in the in-class training material. This information will be expanded to include recent changes to FSIS policy and issuances.

Poultry Inspection:

Best regards,

(b) (6)

(b) (6), DVM  
USDA/FSIS/OOEET/CFL  
Regional Public Health Training Coordinator  
Zorinsky Federal Building  
1616 Capitol Ave., Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102  
(b) (6) (office)  
(b) (6) (BBY)  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

*"Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts." Winston Churchill*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS



**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:22 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: PHIS updates for the OFS monthly to the OSec

Hi Dr. (b) (6)

I hoping I'm getting this to the correct Dr. (b) (6)

Since (b) (6) had you listed in her out of office as the person to contact while she is out, I thought I would send this on and see if it's something you can help us f with.

Thank you!

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
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Washington, DC 20250

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[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: PHIS updates for the OFS monthly to the OSec  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 2:54:24 PM

---

Thank you!

Have a great weekend.

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1166-S  
Washington, DC 20250

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[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 2:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Knox, Susan - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: PHIS updates for the OFS monthly to the OSec

Hi (b) (6)

The update is the same for March.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 01:22 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: PHIS updates for the OFS monthly to the OSec

Hi Dr. (b) (6)

I hoping I'm getting this to the correct Dr. (b) (6)

Since (b) (6) had you listed in her out of office as the person to contact while she is out, I thought I would send this on and see if it's something you can help us f with.

Thank you!

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

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[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 2:15 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** PHIS updates for the OFS monthly to the OSec

Good afternoon!

Do you have any updates for the March report to OSec? Below is the training portion of last month's PHIS entry. We will also like cover the new poultry slaughter rule, non-O157-STECS, and pink slime. If you have something related to those of if you have another items you think should be included, just let me know.

Thanks.

## PHIS

Concurrently, FSIS is in the process of gathering requirements to update all PHIS training materials and procedures. This will include an update to the in-class system and will eventually include imports after deployment. ~~On February 18, corrections were made to several more establishment numbers that had been inaccurately entered or not entered at all during the manual data load process. (Corrections were made to the first group of establishments in December.) This correction, which does not involve any functionality change to PHIS, enables other FSIS applications, such as lab sampling systems, to properly communicate with PHIS.~~

(b) (6)  
*Issues Analyst*

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
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[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Phone call (Admin.)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:51:34 PM

---

You're welcome, (b) (6)

(b) (6)  
Alameda District Office  
Phone: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Phone call (Admin.)

Thanks (b) (6)

-----  
Sent using BlackBerry

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 01:45 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Phone call (Admin.)

Hi (b) (6)

(b) (6) from Merced called regarding he would like information on "pink slime" from cows that is mixed in the product and is sold to the public and in schools. His phone # is: (b) (6)

(b) (6)  
Alameda District Office  
Phone: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Phone Call from the Washington Post  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 3:46:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Awesome. Thanks so much.

(b) (6) "  
Office of the Under Secretary  
for Food Safety  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Rm. 227-E  
Washington, DC 20250-0121  
(b) (6) -- ofc  
(202) 690-0820 -- fax

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** RE: Phone Call from the Washington Post

Audio file also embedded:

## USDA uses Twitter to issue urgent food safety alerts

Wednesday - 3/7/2012, 10:15am ET

 **Listen**

**Dr. Elizabeth Hagen, undersecretary for food safety, USDA**

[Download](#)

The Agriculture Department is looking for new ways to alert the public of urgent food safety issues. The latest vehicle: Twitter. A number of different feeds are up and running as of this month.

"We've been communicating with consumers through our main Twitter feed for quite some time," said Dr. Elizabeth Hagen, USDA's undersecretary for food safety.

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service regulates domestic and imported meat, poultry and processed egg products. It already passes on urgent food safety information to the more than 250,000 people who follow its main Twitter feed — @USDAFoodSafety.

"This new effort really aims to target those messages when we have a recall that, for instance, affects maybe five or six states," Hagen said. "We want to make sure that in addition to our

national information going out, that people in those particular localities can get the information that they need and get it very quickly."

Hagen joined [\*The Federal Drive with Tom Temin\*](#) Wednesday to discuss how her agency is using social media to get time-sensitive information out to consumers.

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 3:43 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Phone Call from the Washington Post

Don't forget Dirk.

(b) (6) "  
Office of the Under Secretary  
for Food Safety  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Rm. 227-E  
Washington, DC 20250-0121  
(b) (6) -- ofc  
(202) 690-0820 -- fax

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OSEC; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Phone Call from the Washington Post

Thanks, (b) (6) – we'll forward to the Department...

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:30 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Phone Call from the Washington Post

Neil and Dirk

I have a feeling this should go to FNS.

Elizabeth Flock with the Washington Post called and would like to speak with someone about the emonia hydroxied in school lunches – pink slime.

Her number is 773-414-4047.

(b) (6)  
Office of the Under Secretary  
for Food Safety  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Rm. 227-E  
Washington, DC 20250-0121  
(b) (6) -- ofc  
(202) 690-0820 -- fax



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slim  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:58:01 AM

---

So much for the (b) (6)'s "coopens" you all have. Might as well get rid of those as well.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slim

[http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/\\_news/2012/01/31/10282876-mcdonalds-drops-use-of-gooey-ammonia-based-pink-slime-in-hamburger-meat?](http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/01/31/10282876-mcdonalds-drops-use-of-gooey-ammonia-based-pink-slime-in-hamburger-meat?)

(b) (6)

Senior Investigator

USDA, FSIS, OPEER, CID

9700 Page Ave, Room 1800A

Overland, MO 63132

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (314)538-2285

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

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**From:** [Bob Monahan](#)  
**To:** "(b) (6)" - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slim  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:59:15 AM

---

There will be nothing but Green Slime in the Locker Room .

On Mar 9, 2012 6:35 AM, "(b) (6)" - FSIS" <(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov> wrote:

Yea, it should have been Green Slime for St. Patty's.

---

**From:** Bob Monahan [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 5:58 PM  
**To:** "(b) (6)" - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slim

I just bought some burger and it was full of pink slime, Im not a bit happy! I want your bosses number.

Pink Eddy, I mean Bob

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - Ammonia in Beef letters  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 10:02:16 AM

---

Yes – please proceed. Thanks,

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1162-S  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 9:45 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - Ammonia in Beef letters

I also understand from (b) (6) that the procedure is to put the standard response, with the new date and name, into ECM and send it on to you and that you send it to (b) (6) to put into final. Will do. Thanks.

(b) (6)

USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

(b) (6)

(202) 720-7609 Fax

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 9:40 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - Ammonia in Beef letters

I agree. (b) (6) this is the same issue that you raised this morning regarding the ammonia/pink slime letter that you've been assigned.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1162-S  
Washington, DC 20250

Office: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 9:31 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** Pink Slime - Ammonia in Beef letters

<< File: Signed copy of (b) (6) ammonia 6850392.docx >>

Good Morning (b) (6)

FYI – Pink slime language was approved by (b) (6) to autopen. No review or clearance is required. The writer only needs to put the letter in final, and (b) (6) would forward to (b) (6) to autopen. See approved language attached.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

*"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:06:12 PM

---

Why not, slim, it's what's for supper. ☺

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

EE# (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

Thanks (b) (6) yes while reviewing the footage I was thinking about how one sided the information was and the process that they described. Still don't want to eat it though.

(b) (6)

*USDA, FSIS, OFO*

*Livingston Frontline Supervisor*

*Alameda District*

*P.O. Box 3152*

*Turlock, CA 95381*

*Phone* (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)

(b) (6) FSIS

**CC:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

FYI, additional information you may not hear on the news.

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

EE# (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:32 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; FSIS - FO/DO15/Front Line Supervisors  
**Cc:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS; Reeder, Robert - FSIS; Wagner, Scott - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

Interesting, yes, but only one side of the story; my opinion is that rather than share (promote?) one side of a hot-button topic we should be sharing a more rounded picture.

In regards to this particular article: what they refer to as "vats" appears to be a reference to what we know as "combos" and all of

us know the requirements for sanitation, assuring what product that goes into combos (which does include trim but certainly no inedible product!), and the handling and shipping of combos. For sure combos are not dumped in railway tanker cars labeled "edible tallow." I've worked at plants that did on-site rendering and produced 'edible tallow' – it has absolutely nothing to do with the production of LFTB.

For your further edification and consideration, below are links to some articles that present the other (and scientifically supportable) side of the story. The first is an industry response to the popular press information, while the second has more specific information on the use of ammonium hydroxide (NH3) in the production of LFTB as well as a list of other products that naturally contain NH3 or that use NH3 as an anti-microbial processing aid (and these are products millions consume every day). The third, in part, refers to the closure of some of the facilities that produce LFTB – one of which I worked at when I was a Relief SPHV in Lawrence District; that facility had high sanitation standards that they effectively implemented (we can only wish all of the plants where we provide inspection had such effective sanitation procedure implementation!) and very strict tracking of incoming combos of trim. The last link is a MythBusters-format article on LFTB.

1. <http://www.meatpoultry.com/Writers/Bryan%20Salvage/Assassinating%20effective%20technology.aspx>
2. [http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions\\_and\\_Answers\\_about\\_Ammonium\\_Hydroxide\\_Use\\_in\\_Food\\_Production](http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Questions_and_Answers_about_Ammonium_Hydroxide_Use_in_Food_Production)
3. <http://www.meatpoultry.com/News/News%20Home/Business/2012/3/BPI%20suspends%20operations%20at%20three%20plants.aspx>
4. <http://beefisbeef.com/2012/03/15/top-7-myths-of-pink-slime/>

There are those that would say that since the references I've provided "come from industry" that they can't be trusted. I would respond by pointing out that industry has spent a great deal of money on research and has a vested interest in producing safe products while efficiently using as much of the raw product (in this case beef carcasses) as they can – this is smart both business-wise and environment-wise (it's estimated by the American Meat Institute that it will take an addition million and a half head of cattle per year to make up the volume that will be lost due to not using LFTB – definitely not a "green" decision and one that will result in increased cost to consumers). I would further ask for - in addition to anecdotal observations - the scientific support (e.g., peer-reviewed, double-blind studies) that has been done by the popular press and/or those that provided the initial 'pink slime' stories for their version of the story. Yes, I am not an "if it's on You-tube, it must be true" person!

And lastly I would like to point out that this process (producing LFTB) has been approved by USDA while the use of NH3 as a processing aid (for use not just in beef) has been reviewed and approved by FDA; I really have a difficult time believing that there is a conspiracy that is so wide-spread that the decisions by both the USDA and the FDA (based on scientific studies) were controlled to the extent (that seems to be implied in the popular press) that both would approve a process/processing aid that results in a dangerous product to consumers.

(b) (6), DVM, MS  
USDA-FSIS-OFO-Denver District

Frontline Supervisor/Eugene Circuit (15-04)  
Mail:c/o Est. 09221

29476 Airport Road

Eugene, OR 97402

BB: (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:36 AM  
**To:** FSIS - FO/DO15/Front Line Supervisors  
**Cc:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS; Reeder, Robert - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Slime

FYI, interesting article.

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

BB# (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:23 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Slime

*This aired last night on ABC channel 4 in SLC. They even implicated Stouffers.*

[http://www.abc4.com/content/news/top\\_stories/story/Pink-Slime-The-Inside-Story/vm2n3PWs60uax36dzhsNGQ.csp](http://www.abc4.com/content/news/top_stories/story/Pink-Slime-The-Inside-Story/vm2n3PWs60uax36dzhsNGQ.csp)

(b) (6)

***Relief CSI***

***SLC Circuit***

(b) (6)

***To achieve, you need thought. You have to know what you are doing and that's real power.***  
***Ayn Rand***

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:09:22 PM

---

Welcome,

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

EE# (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:08 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

Thanks for the info!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:58 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)

(b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Draughon, Michael - FSIS; Derrick, Greg - FSIS; Bryant, Tracy - FSIS; Buck-Griffin, Cindy - FSIS; Savage, Donna - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

FYI, additional information you may not hear on the news.

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

EE# (b) (6)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:02:38 PM

---

Who U gonna call? Slime busters....

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:19 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; FSIS - FO/DO15/Front Line Supervisors  
**Cc:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS; Reeder, Robert - FSIS; Wagner, Scott - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

Yes I agree, I was just putting it out there to show how this was getting spun so to speak. I do appreciate the additional information, I will pass it own for other to review.

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

EE# (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:19:53 PM

---

I understand that can also be used for fuel? ☺

(b) (6)  
*Frontline Supervisor*  
*Salt Lake Circuit*  
*Denver District*  
BB# (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:56 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

Personally I've always been partial to green slime\* myself! ☺

\* There's an seaweed product out there (I have a friend who buys it for snacks; it's tastes 'okay' but not my first choice for a snack!) that I'm sure starts out as very green slime.

(b) (6), DVM, MS  
USDA-FSIS-OFO-Denver District  
Frontline Supervisor/Eugene Circuit (15-04)  
Mail:c/o Est. 09221  
29476 Airport Road  
Eugene, OR 97402  
BB: (b) (6) 4

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:24 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

Understood ☺, I believe the issue, like a lot of things is getting one sided. Don't they know that slim is good for you. ☺

(b) (6)  
*Frontline Supervisor*  
*Salt Lake Circuit*  
*Denver District*  
BB# (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:10 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

No problem - however that thought did not come thru (at least not to me :-)) when I looked at the forwarded link.

(b) (6), DVM, MS  
Frontline Supervisor, Circuit 15-04  
USDA-FSIS-OFO  
Denver District  
Springfield, OR  
(b) (6) (bb)

-----  
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 02:18 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; FSIS - FO/DO15/Front Line Supervisors  
**Cc:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS; Reeder, Robert - FSIS; Wagner, Scott - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

Yes I agree, I was just putting it out there to show how this was getting spun so to speak. I do appreciate the additional

information, I will pass it own for other to review.

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

EE#

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Trivia on "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:14:54 AM

---

LOL! It probably was Carl.

(b) (6) MS, VMD  
PHV Staff Officer  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD Policy Development Division  
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building  
1616 Capitol Avenue Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5908  
Phone (b) (6) Fax (402) 344-5007

*Policy is my passion.  
Have you searched [askFSIS?](#)*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:45 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Trivia on 'Pink Slime'

I do remember the article. I recall being disgusted not so much by the process itself, but the way we approved it. Gerald was an interesting character. He wasn't well liked by his fellow microbiologists. I don't recall exactly why this was, though incompetency may have had something to do with it. Anyway, Gerald eventually left OPHS and went to OPEER, I think. Well, that didn't work out, either. I just read that he was an industry consultant for 2 years and is now unemployed. Which is too bad, because he has a 2 year old son. Anyway, according to the most recent article I read about this, when Gerald e-mailed his co-workers and described the product as "pink slime," he thought it would never see the light of day. Silly him. If I had to guess who might have leaked that e-mail, I'd have to say Carl Custer. Just a guess, of course.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Trivia on 'Pink Slime'

Who first called it 'Pink Slime'?

Microbiologist, Gerald Zirstein, called the processed beef "pink slime" in 2002.

Remember this article in the NY Times in 2009?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/31/us/31meat.html?pagewanted=all>

## Safety of Beef Processing Method Is Questioned

By [MICHAEL MOSS](#)

Published: December 30, 2009

Eight years ago, federal officials were struggling to remove potentially deadly E. coli from hamburgers when an entrepreneurial company from South Dakota came up with a novel

idea: injecting beef with ammonia.

The company, Beef Products Inc., had been looking to expand into the hamburger business with a product made from beef that included fatty trimmings the industry once relegated to pet food and cooking oil. The trimmings were particularly susceptible to contamination, but a study commissioned by the company showed that the ammonia process would kill *E. coli* as well as [salmonella](#).

Officials at the [United States Department of Agriculture](#) endorsed the company's ammonia treatment, and have said it destroys *E. coli* "to an undetectable level." They decided it was so effective that in 2007, when the department began routine testing of meat used in hamburger sold to the general public, they exempted Beef Products.

With the U.S.D.A.'s stamp of approval, the company's processed beef has become a mainstay in America's hamburgers. McDonald's, Burger King and other fast-food giants use it as a component in ground beef, as do grocery chains. The federal school lunch program used an estimated 5.5 million pounds of the processed beef last year alone.

But government and industry records obtained by The New York Times show that in testing for the school lunch program, *E. coli* and salmonella pathogens have been found dozens of times in Beef Products meat, challenging claims by the company and the U.S.D.A. about the effectiveness of the treatment. Since 2005, *E. coli* has been found 3 times and salmonella 48 times, including back-to-back incidents in August in which two 27,000-pound batches were found to be contaminated. The meat was caught before reaching lunch-rooms trays.

In July, school lunch officials temporarily banned their hamburger makers from using meat from a Beef Products facility in Kansas because of salmonella — the third suspension in three years, records show. Yet the facility remained approved by the U.S.D.A. for other customers.

Presented by The Times with the school lunch test results, top department officials said they were not aware of what their colleagues in the lunch program had been finding for years.

In response, the agriculture department said it was revoking Beef Products' exemption from routine testing and conducting a review of the company's operations and research. The department said it was also reversing its policy for handling Beef Products during pathogen outbreaks. Since it was seen as pathogen-free, the processed beef was excluded from recalls, even when it was an ingredient in hamburgers found to be contaminated.

The Beef Products case reveals a schism between the main Department of Agriculture and its division that oversees the school lunch program, a divide that underscores the government's faltering effort to make hamburger safe. The U.S.D.A. banned the sale of

meat found to be contaminated with the O157:H7 strain of E. coli 15 years ago, after a deadly outbreak was traced to Jack in the Box restaurants. Meat tainted with salmonella is also a hazard. But while the school lunch program will not buy meat contaminated with salmonella, the agriculture department does not ban its sale to the general public.

Even so, E. coli outbreaks nationwide have increased in recent years. And this summer, two outbreaks of particularly virulent strains of salmonella in hamburger prompted large recalls of ground beef across several states.

Although no outbreak has been tied to Beef Products, officials said they would thoroughly scrutinize any future industry innovations for fighting contamination “to ensure that they are scientifically sound and protect public health,” and that they were examining the government’s overall meat safety policies.

The founder and owner of [Beef Products](#), Eldon N. Roth, declined requests for interviews or access to the company’s production facilities. Responding to written questions, Beef Products said it had a deep commitment to hamburger safety and was continually refining its operation to provide the safest product possible. “B.P.I.’s track record demonstrates the progress B.P.I. has made compared to the industry norm,” the company said. “Like any responsible member of the meat industry, we are not perfect.”

Beef Products maintains that its ammonia process remains effective. It said it tests samples of each batch it ships to customers and has found E. coli in only 0.06 percent of the samples this year.

The company says its processed beef, a mashlike substance frozen into blocks or chips, is used in a majority of the hamburger sold nationwide. But it has remained little known outside industry and government circles. Federal officials agreed to the company’s request that the ammonia be classified as a “processing agent” and not an ingredient that would be listed on labels.

Within the U.S.D.A., the treated beef has been a source of friction for years. The department accepted the company’s own study as evidence that the treatment was effective. School lunch officials, who had some doubts about its effectiveness, required that Beef Products meat be tested, as they do all beef used by the program.

School lunch officials said that in some years Beef Products testing results were worse than many of the program’s two dozen other suppliers, which use traditional meat processing methods. From 2005 to 2009, Beef Products had a rate of 36 positive results for salmonella per 1,000 tests, compared to a rate of nine positive results per 1,000 tests for the other suppliers, according to statistics from the program. Beef Products said its testing regime was more likely to detect contamination.

Despite some misgivings, school lunch officials say they use Beef Products because its price is substantially lower than ordinary meat trimmings, saving about \$1 million a year.

Another snapshot of processed beef's performance emerges from confidential records of tests in 2007 by the food giant Cargill. In the preceding year and a half, Cargill, which used more than 50 vendors, suspended three facilities for excessive salmonella; two were Beef Products plants, records show.

Since introducing the treated meat, Beef Products has faced the challenge of balancing safety with taste, records and interviews show.

Pathogens died when enough ammonia was used to raise the alkalinity of the beef to a high level, company research found. But early on, school lunch officials and other customers complained about the taste and smell of the beef. Samples of the processed beef obtained by The Times revealed lower levels of alkalinity, suggesting less ammonia was used.

Beef Products acknowledged lowering the alkalinity, and the U.S.D.A. said it had determined that "at least some of B.P.I.'s product was no longer receiving the full lethality treatment."

Beef Products said it had submitted new research to the agriculture department showing that its treatment remained effective with lower alkalinity. Agriculture officials said Beef Products' latest study is under review.

### **A Safety Solution**

Headstrong and self-assured, Eldon N. Roth had the good fortune of being in the right place at the right time.

Mr. Roth spent the 1990s looking to give Beef Products a competitive edge by turning fatty slaughterhouse trimmings into usable lean beef.

Mr. Roth and others in the industry had discovered that liquefying the fat and extracting the protein from the trimmings in a centrifuge resulted in a lean product that was desirable to hamburger-makers.

The greater challenge was eliminating E. coli and salmonella, which are more prevalent in fatty trimmings than in higher grades of beef. According to a 2003 study financed by Beef Products, the trimmings "typically includes most of the material from the outer surfaces of the carcass" and contains "larger microbiological populations." Beef Products said it also used trimmings from inside cuts of meat.

Mr. Roth was well suited to tackle the problem, friends say. Though lacking a science background, he had a knack for machinery and obtained patents for over two dozen pieces of equipment and methods used in processing beef.

“He looked and looked at stuff and always wondered, why can’t it be done this way?” said Dr. David M. Theno, a [food safety](#) consultant and friend of Mr. Roth. “He is like a lot of inventors. Not everyone sees Eldon’s vision.”

One of Mr. Roth’s early trials involved running electricity through the trimmings to kill bacteria, Dr. Theno and others said. Mr. Roth eventually settled on ammonia, which had been shown to suppress spoilage. Meat is sent through pipes where it is exposed to ammonia gas, and then flash frozen and compressed — all steps that help kill pathogens, company research found.

The treated beef landed in Washington in 2001, when federal officials were searching for ways to eliminate E. coli. Beef Products already had one study showing its treatment would do that; another company-sponsored study by an [Iowa State University](#) professor that was published in a professional journal seconded that finding.

Mr. Roth asserted that his product would kill pathogens in untreated meat when it was used as an ingredient in ground beef — raising the prospect of a risk-free burger. “Given the technology, we firmly believe that the two pathogens of major concern in raw ground beef — E. coli O157:H7 and salmonella — are on the verge of elimination,” Mr. Roth wrote to the department.

The [Food and Drug Administration](#) signed off on the use of ammonia, concluding it was safe when used as a processing agent in foods. This year, a top official with the U.S.D.A.’s Food Safety and Inspection Service said, “It eliminates E. coli to the same degree as if you cooked the product.”

Carl S. Custer, a former U.S.D.A. microbiologist, said he and other scientists were concerned that the department had approved the treated beef for sale without obtaining independent validation of the potential safety risk. Another department microbiologist, Gerald Zirnstein, called the processed beef “pink slime” in a 2002 e-mail message to colleagues and said, “I do not consider the stuff to be ground beef, and I consider allowing it in ground beef to be a form of fraudulent labeling.”

One of the toughest hurdles for Beef Products was the Agricultural Marketing Service, the U.S.D.A. division that buys food for school lunches. Officials cited complaints about the odor, and wrote in a 2002 memorandum that they had “to determine if the addition of ammonia to the product is in the best interest to A.M.S. from a quality standpoint.” “It is our contention,” the memo added, “that product should be labeled accordingly.”



Represented by Dennis R. Johnson, a top lawyer and lobbyist for the meat industry, Beef Products prevailed on the question of whether ammonia should be listed as an ingredient, arguing that the government had just decided against requiring another company to list a chemical used in treating poultry.

School lunch officials said they ultimately agreed to use the treated meat because it shaved about 3 cents off the cost of making a pound of ground beef. "Several packers have unofficially raised concern regarding the use of the product since the perception of quality is inferior," the 2002 memo said. "But will use product to obtain lower bid."

In 2004, lunch officials increased the amount of Beef Products meat allowed in its hamburgers to 15 percent, from 10 percent, to increase savings. In a taste test at the time, some school children favored burgers with higher amounts of processed beef.

Beef Products does not disclose its earnings, but its reported production of seven million pounds a week would generate about \$440 million in annual revenue, according to industry records.

Dr. Theno, the food safety consultant, applauds Mr. Roth for figuring out how to convert high-fat trimmings "with no functional value."

"There were some issues with that," Dr. Theno said. "But he, and God bless him, amassed a tidy fortune for it."

As sales took off, Mr. Roth started offering a buy-back guarantee: If any of the most virulent E. coli was found in ground beef containing Beef Products meat, the company would buy the tainted meat.

This was based on Mr. Roth's initial prediction that his treated beef could kill E. coli in any meat it was mixed with. The company acknowledges that its subsequent study found no evidence to back that up, although it says it is now trying with an enhanced treatment. The guarantee remains on the company Web site: "Contact a B.P.I. sales representative today to take the challenge!"

### **Odor and Alkalinity**

As suppliers of national restaurant chains and government-financed programs were buying Beef Product meat to use in ground beef, complaints about its pungent odor began to emerge.

In early 2003, officials in Georgia returned nearly 7,000 pounds to Beef Products after cooks who were making [meatloaf](#) for state prisoners detected a "very strong odor of ammonia" in 60-pound blocks of the trimmings, state records show.

"It was frozen, but you could still smell ammonia," said Dr. Charles Tant, a Georgia

agriculture department official. “I’ve never seen anything like it.”

Unaware that the meat was treated with ammonia — since it was not on the label — Georgia officials assumed it was accidentally contaminated and alerted the agriculture department. In their complaint, the officials noted that the level of ammonia in the beef was similar to levels found in contamination incidents involving chicken and milk that had sickened schoolchildren.

Beef Products said the ammonia did not pose a danger and would be diluted when its beef was mixed with other meat. The U.S.D.A. accepted Beef Product’s conclusion, but other customers had also complained about the smell.

Untreated beef naturally contains ammonia and is typically about 6 on the pH scale, near that of rain water and milk. The Beef Products’ study that won U.S.D.A. approval used an ammonia treatment that raised the pH of the meat to as high as 10, an alkalinity well beyond the range of most foods. The company’s 2003 study cited the “potential issues surrounding the palatability of a pH-9.5 product.”

Soon after getting initial approval from the agriculture department, the company devised a plan to make a less alkaline version of the beef, internal company documents show. Beef Products acknowledged in an e-mail exchange that it was making a lower pH version, but did not specify the level or when it began selling it.

In 2008, after the school lunch program temporarily suspended a Beef Products plant for salmonella contamination, the company wrote in a letter that its effort to combat ammonia “aroma” might have reduced the alkalinity below the initial target levels. It said it was taking steps to ensure that the alkalinity remained elevated.

Samples of the treated beef obtained by The Times this month showed a pH as low as 7.75, according to an analysis by two laboratories. Dr. Michael P. Doyle, a food industry consultant and director of the [Center for Food Safety at the University of Georgia](#), said one point on the exponential pH scale was a considerable difference, and “could have a significant effect on the antimicrobial effectiveness of the ammonia.”

This month, Beef Products provided The Times with new research that the company said showed that E. coli and salmonella were undetectable at a pH level of 8.5. The agriculture department said it did not learn that Beef Products was using lower levels until October, after inquiries by The Times, and that it was studying the company’s research.

McDonald’s, whose hamburgers have contained Beef Products meat since 2004, declined to say if it monitored it for pH. But Danya Proud, a chain spokeswoman, said, “We expect the pH level to meet the specifications that are approved by the U.S.D.A.”

## **Contamination and Notification**

At 6:36 a.m. on Aug. 10, the Beef Products plant in South Sioux City, Neb., started up its production line for the school lunch program. In 60 minutes, the plant produced a batch of 26,880 pounds of processed beef that tested positive for E. coli.

Six days later at the same plant, another 26,880-pound lot was found to have salmonella, government records and interviews show.

Within hours of confirming the contamination, the school lunch division of the Agriculture Department in Washington began investigating.

Just down the hall at department headquarters, the division that oversees meat for the general public did not conduct its own inquiry for another month and half, after receiving questions from The Times.

The problems in South Sioux City came shortly after school lunch officials had suspended a Beef Products plant in Holcomb, Kan., for excessive salmonella. The main U.S.D.A. was not notified of the suspension by school lunch officials, and the plant continued to supply other customers.

Agriculture Secretary [Tom Vilsack](#) has since directed school lunch officials to share information about their suspensions with the department's meat safety division. In addressing the latest contamination cases in Nebraska, Beef Products said it suspected a glitch in its treatment operations, referring to ammonia gas by its chemical name, NH<sub>3</sub>, according to an e-mail message to school lunch officials.

"The system was stopped for two minutes in order to install a new valve," the company said. "When the system was restarted, there was product flow for approximately one minute without NH<sub>3</sub> flow."

After the school lunch officials replied that the glitch might explain only one of the two episodes, Beef Products shifted focus to its suppliers, saying it would more closely scrutinize them for contamination.

Under the U.S.D.A.'s new policy for Beef Products, the company itself is also likely to get more scrutiny.

Cargill, one of the nation's largest hamburger makers, is a big buyer of Beef Products' ammoniated trimmings for its patties. Company records show that Beef Products, like other suppliers, has periodically exceeded Cargill's limits on acceptable bacteria levels. That led Cargill to stop buying meat from two Beef Products plants for several months in 2006 after company tests showed excessive levels of salmonella.

But the following year, when Cargill faced an E. coli outbreak, it ruled out Beef Products as a possible culprit, citing the U.S.D.A.'s view that the ammonia treatment provided a "lethality step" for the pathogen. In addition, Cargill officials said recently, they suspect that another supplier, not Beef Products, was the problem. As a result, Beef Products did not face as wide a recall as other Cargill suppliers.

Recently, another E. coli outbreak was traced to a hamburger maker in upstate New York that also used multiple suppliers, including Beef Products. This time, the agriculture department said Beef

Products was being recalled with other suppliers, although a source of the contamination had not been identified.

"This will continue to be our approach going forward," the department said.

*Griff Palmer contributed reporting.*

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**From:** Hulse, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Butler, Kim - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Question

I'm sure all of you have heard on the news they are discontinuing production of "pink slime"; shutting down or laying off from 3 plants.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 6:58 AM  
**To:** Butler, Kim - FSIS; (b) (6)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Question

If you also have the same question (b) (6) had....

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Question

(b) (6)

Yes, labeling of LFTB is similar to AMR. The commodity itself needs a descriptive designation, e.g., "lean finely textured beef" or "BPI lean chips, derived from beef trimmings." However, FSIS determined it can be used in secondary products (including ground beef and hamburger) and just listed as beef.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 02:56 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Question

Jeff,

Can you answer (b) (6) question? Is this like AMR, once it is processed and then incorporated it is no longer AMR but just 'beef'?

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 9:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Question

Hi (b) (6)

In all this discussion from FSIS about removing "pink slime" from ground beef....is this not the following true???

"Pink Slime" is Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB)

According to § 319.15(a), chopped beef and ground beef cannot contain LFTB.

According to § 319.15(b), hamburger cannot contain LFTB.

According to § 319.15(c), beef patties can contain LFTB.

Is it not fraud to put LFTB in something and call it chopped beef, ground beef, or hamburger.

(b) (6) Consumer Safety Officer  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, Policy Development Division  
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260

Omaha NE 68102-5908

(b) (6)

*Submit your questions to...*

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Hulsey, Laura - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Trivia on "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:11:19 AM  
**Attachments:** [September 2010 ECIMS Pink Slime - 6456221.msg.msg](#)

---

It was a little over two years ago...since that was December 2009...I remember we got lots of calls and then we had the attached from ECIMS to help answer.....in 2010.

---

**From:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:50 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Trivia on 'Pink Slime'

That's a really good article. Thanks.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:37 AM  
**To:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Cc:** Butler, Kim - FSIS; (b) (6)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (b) (6)  
[REDACTED] - FSIS  
**Subject:** Trivia on 'Pink Slime'

This is not a new issue....

Who first called it 'Pink Slime'?

Microbiologist, Gerald Zirnstein, called the processed beef "pink slime" in 2002.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/31/us/31meat.html?pagewanted=all>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Two pink slime calls so far today  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:07:40 PM

---

Ok.

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 12:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Two pink slime calls so far today

Just today (b) (6)

I've keeping track a little ..

thanks

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 12:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Two pink slime calls so far today



(b) (6) you want to know how many calls we get today or how many we got all week?

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 12:50 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Two pink slime calls so far today

Yes, please, .. just to have an idea where we stand with such inquiries; (b) (6) and (b) (6) could you let me know at end of day about these ?

It seems they ask occasionally (downtown folks), so just in case they ask..

(The media is "stoking that fire" again)

Thank you,

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 12:43 PM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: Two pink slime calls so far today

Are you still counting these? I had one really irate caller just now and one very nice lady earlier.

(b) (6)

Food Safety Specialist

USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline

Room 2L254-B

5601 Sunnyside Ave.

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(301) 344-4760

Fax (301) 504-2092

1 (888) MPHHotline or 1 (888) 674-6854

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Tyson 278 appeal of NR JKJ3414020009N  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 9:53:38 AM

---

Gotcha--done

(b) (6), D.V.M.

Supervisory Enforcement Investigations and Analysis Officer

Lawrence District Office

USDA/FSIS

(b) (6) Office

(b) (6) Blackberry

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Tyson 278 appeal of NR JKJ3414020009N

I'll rename it – just drop it in the file I made with the NR # on it.

Google News is still showing the ABC News “pink slime” spot.

(b) (6), DVM

Enforcement Investigation Analysis Officer

Lawrence District Office

Office (b) (6)

Fax 785-841-5623

Cell (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:50 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Tyson 278 appeal of NR JKJ3414020009N

Will do but it may need to be renamed as I don't know the procedure. 30-12-???? Tyson  
278

(b) (6), D.V.M.

Supervisory Enforcement Investigations and Analysis Officer

Lawrence District Office

USDA/FSIS

(b) (6) Office

7(b) (6) Blackberry

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:45 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Tyson 278 appeal of NR JKJ3414020009N

(b) (6) – pls drop any e-copies into shared drive file. Thx

(b) (6), DVM

Enforcement Investigation Analysis Officer

Lawrence District Office

Office (b) (6)

Fax 785-841-5623

Cel (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:16 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Tyson 278 appeal of NR JKJ3414020009N

The following letter has been sent by UPS to the establishment. A difficult decision but we went ahead and granted the establishments appeal. Dr. (b) (6) please update PHIS accordingly. Although we granted the appeal, we do feel that their failure to follow their written prerequisite program should be documented. At the next weekly

establishment/FSIS meeting please discuss and document your conversation in a MOI.  
Thanks.

<< File: Tyson Appeal rescind3912.pdf >>

(b) (6), *D.V.M.*

Supervisory Enforcement Investigations and Analysis Officer

Lawrence District Office

USDA/FSIS

(b) (6) Office

(b) (6) Blackberry

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Unreal Tournament  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:44:53 AM

---

OUCH! That sucks. I have been attacked by questions about all over. I keep telling them it is beef and nothin' wrong with it. Watch ground beef prices go through the roof! Later on.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:40 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Unreal Tournament

Yes, drastically!!!! Running 3 ½ days a week!!!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Unreal Tournament

Has BPI reduced hours or anything? Just wondering with the hoopla about "pink slime".

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:49 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Unreal Tournament

cool

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:25 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Unreal Tournament

First week of June has only two people off for my circuit. Probably be good to go for a 4 day weekend. I'll talk to (b) (6) and get this done. We'll talk again.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 6:12 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Unreal Tournament

I'm off the last week of May & the first week of June.

Depending on this house deal the fishing just might be a go!!!!

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Updating/validating Hotline messages  
**Date:** Friday, February 17, 2012 1:06:13 PM

---

I agree. I have no idea what anyone at the "other end of the hall" is doing.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2012 12:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Updating/validating Hotline messages

This is great (b) (6) ---I just noticed also that 1 of them was just posted today – coincidence or...ESP??

Seriously though, I do feel at times as if things are happening too fast and we inadvertently remain in the 'dark' you could say...though they may involve the very topics and subject areas we cover here at the hotline, whether individually or as a team..

Thanks for your comments meanwhile

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2012 12:28 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Updating/validating Hotline messages

Good idea to bring everyone up to speed.

Here's what I know about the progress of these:

**2011 (FY12)**

- *Jerky and Food Safety* (CCW) (published 11/2011) - [updated and posted on the website](#)
- *Stuffing and Food Safety* (SK) (published 11/2011)
- *Leftovers and Food Safety* New Fact sheet (expect to publish by end of 2011) – [this one is still in clearance downtown](#)
- *FSIS Food Recalls* (published 10/14/11) – [updated and back on the web](#)
- *Turkey Raised by the Rules* (SK) published 10/3/11
- *Slow Cookers and Food Safety* (SK) published 10/3/11 – [updated and \(b\) \(6\) posted it on the web today](#)
- *Washing Food: Does it Promote Food Safety?* (MG) published 10/3/11.
- *Microwave Ovens and Food Safety* (posted May 2011) – extra question about cleaning the microwave oven cleared and posted 10/6/11.
- *Safety of Fresh Pork...from Farm to Table* (AM). Posted 10/4/11
- *Turkey Basics Series* – (SK) 4 fact sheets posted on Web 9/29/11.
- *Bison from Farm to Table* (CCW) —posted to Web 10/3/11.
- *Color of Meat and Poultry* (SK) published 10/14/11
- *FSIS Food Recalls* (KB) published 10/14/11.
- *"Danger Zone" (40 °F - 140 °F)* (New fact sheet in 2010 – FY10) updated 10/14/11
- *Ground Poultry Safety Q &A* (SK) published 10/14/11

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2012 12:20 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)  
- Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS; Tuverson, Robert - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Updating/validating Hotline messages

Hi everyone,



We've discussed this a few times during hotline meetings: the last time we brought this issue up regarding 'validation and updating of HL messages' it appeared that few ideas, if any, from the HL staff came to fruition. Not many 'grey areas' for example have been brought forward by HL staff.

That's to expected, as we try to keep our facts and fact sheets up to date, especially 'hot topics:'

Examples recently have been : 'pink slime,' 'ammoniated beef;' 'halal' mainly as calls were received related to labeling (from consumers).

We've had some talking points by now on such topics for use.

So, I recommend that each person bring to our usual HL meetings (on Tuesdays normally) their latest updates, be they **fact sheets updated or brand new fact sheets** created.

We only need to inform each other of what was updated; for new fact sheets, I recommend we go over them together as a group: this way we are all educated on new items (E.g. the new **"Allergies and Food Safety"** fact sheet; **"Shelf-Stable Food Safety"**)

Here is also a list of items (b) (6) had sent me around Thanksgiving, per a request I made, during one our HL meetings:

## **2011 (FY12)**

- *Jerky and Food Safety* (CCW) (published 11/2011)
- *Stuffing and Food Safety* (SK) (published 11/2011)
- *Leftovers and Food Safety* New Fact sheet (expect to publish by end of 2011)
- *FSIS Food Recalls* (published 10/14/11)
- *Turkey Raised by the Rules* (SK) published 10/3/11
- *Slow Cookers and Food Safety* (SK) published 10/3/11
- *Washing Food: Does it Promote Food Safety?* (MG) published 10/3/11.
- *Microwave Ovens and Food Safety* (posted May 2011) – extra question about cleaning the microwave oven cleared and posted 10/6/11.
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- *Turkey Basics Series* – (SK) 4 fact sheets posted on Web 9/29/11.

- *Bison from Farm to Table* (CCW) —posted to Web 10/3/11.
- *Color of Meat and Poultry* (SK) published 10/14/11
- *FSIS Food Recalls* (KB) published 10/14/11.
- *"Danger Zone" (40 °F - 140 °F)* (New fact sheet in 2010 – FY10) updated 10/14/11
- *Ground Poultry Safety Q & A* (SK) published 10/14/11

During our next meetings, please bring with you updates you've made, or fresh fact sheets you may have created.

---- not the next Tuesday, Feb. 21, as that is our FSIS Labeling update meeting—I will keep you posted.

We can discuss this further if you'd like, however remember that "validation and updating of HL messages" appear to be a high-priority presently,

as (b) (6) and (b) (6) had recently brought this up.

Even if not related to 'validation,' meanwhile, I do think we as a HL team we should be reviewing these updated and new fact sheets together.

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent -- Need you quick feedback on FTB labeling.....  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:47:26 AM

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Dan,

It would be a claim anywhere on the label, e.g., "contains no finely textured beef" or "contains finely textured beef." No other reference to finely textured beef would be on the label because it is listed as "beef" in the ingredients statement in products in which it is used as an ingredient. Ground beef normally would not bear an ingredients statement though unless other ingredients, e.g., spices, are added. What do you think about allowing wholesale or retail? (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

Jeff

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:41 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent -- Need you quick feedback on FTB labeling.....

How is the label modified -- is the claim on the FOP, back, ingredient statement? I'm not understanding this aspect. Also, I believe that industry will focus on both FTB and LFTB, with or without anhydrous ammonia.

Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
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Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:28 AM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent -- Need you quick feedback on FTB labeling.....

Dan:

Here is the options paper Jeff put together last week (attached and below). Our recommendation when

(b) (5)

**Subject:** Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB)  
**Issue:** Industry, e.g., Cargill, has requested the use of the claim "contains no finely textured beef" on

packages of ground beef, including packages sold at retail. LPDD believes recent negative media coverage, especially over its use in ground beef, has driven the proposed use of the claim.

Options: LPDD has identified the following three options for consideration of the use of the claim. LPDD believes option two may be the best approach because FTB is a meat food product that is only used by establishments in the formulation of further processed meat products, e.g., blended with ground beef or used in meat fillings for burritos. It is not a product sold directly at retail or labeled as an ingredient. Consequently, the use of the claim at retail may result in consumer confusion and suggest that products containing LFTB are less desirable or unsafe which is not the case.

Option 1- Deny the use of the claim. The claim "contains no finely textured beef" is factual but could be misleading for consumers. Specifically, LFTB is not listed as an ingredient and most consumers only know what LFTB is from the recent media coverage that portrayed it as an inferior product that consumers should avoid. Approving the use of a claim on a product that does not require labeling as an ingredient could raise additional questions on an extremely sensitive issue. However, consumers have expressed interest through askFSIS for the Agency to require labeling of LFTB. Allowing the use of a claim "contains no finely textured beef" may help address consumer concern for being able to distinguish products that contain LFTB from those that do not contain the meat food product.

Option 2- Approve the claim for ground beef other than for retail sale. LFTB is a product that has been used in industry for 21 years. Industry is familiar with its production and use in various meat food products. Approving the claim "contains no finely textured beef" would be useful for industry, especially considering AMS has announced that schools will have a choice next year to order product either with or without FTB. However, approving the claim for only within industry could cause consumer outrage. Specifically, allowing the claim only at the industry level would not address consumers who have expressed a desire for being able to distinguish products with or without LFTB.

Option 3- Approve the claim for use on retail and non-retail labeling. This would address industry and consumer desire to distinguish products that contain LFTB from those that do not. There is the possibility that claim may cause consumer confusion. Specifically, consumers have only received limited information on LFTB. Consumers may still be unclear as to why LFTB is permitted to be in ground beef and without ingredient labeling.

Background: LFTB is a meat product whereby heat and a mechanical process are applied to fatty pieces of beef to reduce the fat content. LFTB typically contains at least 14 percent protein, no more than 10 percent fat, and has a protein efficiency ratio of 2.5. These criteria accepted by the Agency in 1991 ensure that the product is a valuable source of quality protein in the diet for products in which it is used as an ingredient. These requirements are in addition to the steps taken to ensure that the product is microbiologically safe. It can be used in unlimited quantities in meat products, including ground beef, and labeled as "beef" in products in which it is used as an ingredient. Generally, it is not used at greater than 20 percent of the meat block in ground beef (20 percent is referenced in AMS's Institutional Meat Purchasing Specifications Item no. 136 ). FSIS estimates that it is typically incorporated into ground beef at only 5 to 15 percent, depending on the desired lean to fat ratio of the finished product. The media has claimed that LFTB is present in up to 70 percent of the ground beef nationwide; however, FSIS estimates the amount to be much less based on production levels of LFTB and ground beef.

The recent media coverage has resulted in many consumer comments submitted through askFSIS stating that they do not want LFTB, referred to as "pink slime," in the ground beef they purchase. They are not familiar with the product but understand from the recent media coverage that it is used as a filler in ground beef and want it labeled so they can distinguish ground beef which contains LFTB from ground product that does not. FSIS is unsure whether consumers would understand the claim because LFTB is not a product they are familiar with. They are only aware of the claim through recent media coverage which has portrayed the product as being inferior.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA

(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792 Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_Fsis/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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-----Original Message-----

From: Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS

Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 10:12 AM

To: Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

Cc: Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS

Subject: Urgent -- Need you quick feedback on FTB labeling.....

Cargill has suggested that in order to regarding sales of ground beef, they need to identify the product as either containing/not containing FTB. They may or may not be subjecting the FTB to anhydrous ammonia. At first, Cargill asked if FSIS would be amenable to putting FTB in the ingredient statement. Phil indicated that he would not want this option. Rather, he would want there to be a note on the FOP or elsewhere that says that the product does/doesn't contain FTB. What are your thoughts and suggestions. Needs a decision this morning. Several Cargill facilities are not operational today because they have no buyers for the ground beef. Virtually all of their product has FTB. You likely will get a request for an expedited review/clearance once we get back to Cargill on our preference for labeling. Thanks.

Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA

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**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Alexander, Bruce - FNS](#) (b) (6) - FNS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - Seattle TV station report and question from States re pink slime in USDA Foods  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 6:46:55 PM

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Good afternoon,

Below is the statement we have provided to reporters this week, including a reporter at the FOX affiliate in Seattle. Please let me know if this does the trick or if you need any additional information.

"All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations. USDA would only allow products into commerce or especially into schools that we have confidence are safe."

---

**From:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 05:29 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Cc:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; (b) (6) - FNS; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT - Seattle TV station report and question from States re pink slime in USDA Foods

(b) (6)

Statement issued by FSIS to media team.

Dirk

Do you have any talking points we can provide to our Under Secretary, he's in WA on Monday afternoon?

Bruce

**Bruce C. Alexander**  
**Director, Communications & Governmental Affairs**  
**U.S. Department of Agriculture - Food & Nutrition Service**  
**3101 Park Center Drive**  
**Alexandria, VA 22302**  
**(703) 305-2281 (office)**  
**[Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov)**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS

**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 6:04 PM

**To:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS;

(b) (6) - FNS; Lavalley, Aaron

**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Seattle TV station report and question from States re pink slime in USDA Foods

Bruce – The highlighted statement below is all that I've seen -- it's in the attached.

Dirk Fillpot at AMS (contact info in the e-mail above) may have more detailed information.

— (b) (6)

---

**From:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS

**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 5:59 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FNS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; O'Connor, Tim - FNS

**Subject:** FW: URGENT - Seattle TV station report and question from States re pink slime in USDA Foods

**Importance:** High

(b) (6)

Do we have any talking points for Kevin on this subject – he will be in WA Monday? I will pose the same question to AMS because I think they fielded this query.

Bruce

**Bruce C. Alexander**

**Director, Communications & Governmental Affairs**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture - Food & Nutrition Service**

**3101 Park Center Drive**

**Alexandria, VA 22302**

**(703) 305-2281 (office)**

**[Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov)**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS

**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 5:11 PM

**To:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS

**Cc:** (b) (6) ans - FNS

**Subject:** URGENT - Seattle TV station report and question from States re pink slime in USDA Foods

**Importance:** High

Bruce,

I'm not sure if this statement came from AMS or FNS. However, since Kevin will be at a school event on Monday in Seattle, he may get this question.

The Hawaii State agency wants to know is, does USDA Food (ground beef) contain an ammonia-based solution, known as "pink slime"?

Excerpt from article: In a statement, the USDA said that school lunch-approved meat is always safe – but offered no particular insight on the ammonia-based solution: "All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations."

Here's the article:

## **Q 13 FOX TV**

**Seattle, WA**

### **'Pink slime' is not just at McDonald's**

#### **Majority of ground beef in America contains ammonia-based cleaning solvent**

Erin Hawksworth

Q13 FOX News reporter

6:53 PM PST, February 1, 2012

SEATTLE

Earlier this week McDonald's announced that it would stop using a food additive frequently referred to as "pink slime." The substance, however, is completely legal and can still be found in school cafeterias around America.

The pink slime is in fact an ammonia-based solution, used to help kill bacteria in low-grade meat.

It is approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and, according to a 2010 New York Times article, used in "the majority of hamburger" sold in America.

"They wash this meat and that kills E. coli and pathogens and [salmonella](#). Then we drain it and mince it," said celebrity chef Jamie Oliver. "It's typically cheap meat given to dogs, but after it's processed it can be given to humans."

Beef Products Incorporated, the company that came up with the process, estimates that its ammonia-based product is in 70 percent of the ground beef sold in the U.S. Most fast food giants stopped using pink slime five months ago.



The proprietors of Rain Shadow Meats on Capitol Hill do not use ammonia to treat their product and said the pink slime is shameful.

Seattle Public Schools officials said that there is no documentation of school cafeterias serving ammonia-treated meat.

“Our goal is to make sure our students are fed a healthy lunch and nutritious breakfast,” said spokesperson Lesley Rogers.

In a statement, the USDA said that school lunch-approved meat is always safe – but offered no particular insight on the ammonia-based solution:

"All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations."

There is no federal labeling requirement for beef treated with ammonia, making it difficult to know whether meat has or has not been treated.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 1:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** 'Pink slime' is not just at McDonald's

(b) (6)

This is the story I mentioned and the video. No name of the USDA official quoted. We do need some talking points though to help answer the Hawaii Public Schools question. I will send you that in the next email. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 1:31 PM  
**To:** FNS - WRO SNP DL  
**Subject:** FYI: 'Pink slime' is not just at McDonald's

FYI: you may want to take a look at this story as it makes reference to USDA Foods ground beef which schools and institutions use. Just in case you get questions from your states.

(b) (6)

**From:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent request re: pink slime/finely textured beef  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:56:34 PM

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So are you handling this?

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:48 PM  
**To:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC  
**Cc:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent request re: pink slime/finely textured beef  
**Importance:** High

In case you all haven't received this through different channels...

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

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**From:** Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:24 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent request re: pink slime/finely textured beef  
**Importance:** High

FYI –The following inquiry was passed on by (b) (6) (Rural Development).

Nichele Derrickson,  
*Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175 - South Building  
Phone: (202) 720-9113  
Fax: (202) 720-5704  
[nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:nichele.derrickson@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - RD, Portland, OR  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:15 PM  
**To:** Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS; Allison Frost  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent request re: pink slime/finely textured beef

**Importance:** High

I am sending this message to put Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) in touch with the media contacts for FSIS.

Nichele—Please put Allison Frost, Senior Producer at OPB, in touch with FSIS Press Officer Neil Gaffney as soon as possible, as this is a time-sensitive request. Allison's contact information and background on their request is below. I can tell you from the USDA perspective, that OPB is a very respected news outlet here in the Northwest, and USDA has gotten fair treatment from them.

**(b) (6)** – Your contact is Neil Gaffney, via Nichele Derrickson, who is a recipient of this message. You may reach her via telephone at (202) 720-9113.

Hope this helps!

**(b) (6)**

*Public Affairs Specialist / Native American Coordinator*

**USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

1201 Northeast Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 801 | Portland, OR 97232

Web site: [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/OR\\_Home.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/OR_Home.html) | E-mail: [Jill.Rees@or.usda.gov](mailto:Jill.Rees@or.usda.gov)

Oregon Office Phone: **(b) (6)**

Cell: **(b) (6)**

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**From:** Allison Frost [\[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@opb.org\]](mailto:(b) (6)@opb.org)

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 9:58 AM

**To:** **(b) (6)** - RD, Portland, OR

**Subject:** Urgent request re: pink slime/finely textured beef

**Importance:** High

Hi **(b) (6)**

Sorry for the late notice — but we'll be talking about pink slime tomorrow. Is there someone with the USDA who could talk about "finely textured beef" and why the decision last week to allow schools to opt out. And how this kind of meat is similar and different from other kinds of processed meats. 9-10 am tomorrow/Tuesday for about 30 minutes, not sure at this point whether it's the first or second half of the hour...

Thanks so much!

Allison

Allison Frost

Senior Producer, Think Out Loud

[opb.org/thinkoutloud](http://opb.org/thinkoutloud)

(b) (6) [REDACTED] 7219 [REDACTED]

**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent request re: pink slime/finely textured beef  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:48:14 PM

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I think they spell "meat" in Oregon differently than in other states. Weird.....

Neil Gaffney  
*Press Officer*  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460  
[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

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**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:47 PM  
**To:** Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent request re: pink slime/finely textured beef

Thanks! I'll take care of the reporter

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
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<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

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**From:** Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:24 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent request re: pink slime/finely textured beef  
**Importance:** High

FYI –The following inquiry was passed on by (b) (6) (Rural Development).

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent request re: pink slime/finely textured beef  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 3:05:23 PM

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Didn't see the interview part - yes decline.

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**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 01:01 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent request re: pink slime/finely textured beef

Suggest we decline

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**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 2:56 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Cc:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent request re: pink slime/finely textured beef

Who is handling this one? Mike?

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**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:48 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Cc:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent request re: pink slime/finely textured beef  
**Importance:** High

In case you all haven't received this through different channels...

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: USDA Affirms Safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) for Consumers but for the next school year " ... the department will be adjusting procurement specifications ... so schools can have ... a choice to order product either with or without LFTB ..."  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:31:20 PM

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Thanks.

(b) (6), Physical Scientist  
Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD)  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division (LPDD)  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov  
[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_Fsis/Labeling\\_&\\_Consumer\\_Protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/Labeling_&_Consumer_Protection/index.asp)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:14 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: USDA Affirms Safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) for Consumers but for the next school year " ... the department will be adjusting procurement specifications ... so schools can have ... a choice to order product either with or without LFTB ..."

FYI Pink Slime☺

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**From:** FIEN, LLC - Jack Cooper [<mailto:JLC@fien.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:51 PM  
**To:** [JLC@fien.com](mailto:JLC@fien.com)  
**Subject:** USDA Affirms Safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) for Consumers but for the next school year " ... the department will be adjusting procurement specifications ... so schools can have ... a choice to order product either with or without LFTB ..."

**USDA Affirms Safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) for Consumers but for the next school year " ... the department will be adjusting procurement specifications ... so schools can have ... a choice to order product either with or without LFTB ..."**

**Document Title:** The title of the March 15, 2012 USDA News Release is "USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year; USDA Affirms Safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef Product for Consumers"

**Organization:** USDA Press Office

**Source:** March 15, 2012 USDA News Release

**Web site:** The March 15, 2012 USDA News Release is posted at  
[http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&edeployment\\_action=retrievecontent](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&edeployment_action=retrievecontent)

**Contact:** none at this time

**Summary:** The text of the March 15, 2012 USDA News Release follows

The text of the March 15, 2012 USDA News Release follows

WASHINGTON, March 15, 2012 – In response to requests from school districts across the country, the USDA announced today that it will offer more choices to schools in the National School Lunch Program when it comes to purchases of ground beef products.

USDA only purchases products for the school lunch program that are safe, nutritious and affordable – including all products containing Lean Finely Textured Beef. However, due to customer demand, the department will be adjusting procurement specifications for the next school year so schools can have additional options in procuring ground beef products. USDA will provide schools with a choice to order product either with or without Lean Finely Textured Beef.

USDA continues to affirm the safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef product for all consumers and urges customers to consult science based information on the safety and quality of this product. Lean Finely Textured Beef is a meat product derived from a process which separates fatty pieces from beef trimmings to reduce the overall fat content.

By law, USDA has two primary responsibilities as part of its mandate to provide safe and nutritious food to the American people. Through the Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA ensures that safety of the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and processed egg products. Through the Food and Nutrition Service and the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA provides food and nutrition assistance through several domestic programs, including the National School Lunch Program.

While USDA sets national nutritional guidelines for school meals, school districts make local decisions on what food to feed kids to meet these guidelines. On average, schools in the National School Lunch Program purchase approximately 20 percent of their food through USDA, and approximately 80 percent of food served is purchased directly by schools or school districts through private vendors. Schools purchase food from the department through the USDA Foods Program, which provides more than 180 nutritious food items that are fresh, frozen, packaged, canned, dried, or in bulk. USDA procures these products based on the demand from schools to help meet the menu planning needs, student taste preferences, school nutrition goals, and local wellness initiatives.

USDA ensures all food purchased for the National School Lunch Program meet stringent food safety standards, which includes rigorous pathogen testing. Purchase specifications are continually reviewed, microbial test results are evaluated, new food safety technologies are considered, and food safety experts are consulted to determine the adequacy of our food safety requirements.

**Prepared by:** This message was distributed by Jack Cooper, who may be reached at e-mail: [jlc@fien.com](mailto:jlc@fien.com) or 301-384-8287

This article (#20819) was distributed by e-mail on March 15, 2012 to those whose names are on the FIEN, LLC Subject Matter Distribution Lists for Dairy; Food Labeling; Food Quality, Product Development and Marketing (Ag Commodities and Processed Food); Food Safety; Meat, Poultry and Eggs; Nutrition; Retail Food Marketing (Grocery Stores); Retail Foodservice (Restaurants); Risk Assessment and Communication; Veterinary Medicine

end

This information was sent to you by Jack Cooper of the Food Industry Environmental Network, LLC --- <http://www.fien.com> --- 33 Falling Creek Court, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 --- Cell Phone: 301 384 8287 --- E-Mail: [JLC@fien.com](mailto:JLC@fien.com) --- The Searchable Index of Previously Distributed FIEN Messages is available at [http://www.fien.com/login/logins.php?RELOAD=/search\\_article.php](http://www.fien.com/login/logins.php?RELOAD=/search_article.php)



(b) (6) you have good point.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Tuverson, Robert - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:48:09 PM

---

Thanks Bob

(b) (6)

---

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff  
Meat and Poultry Hotline  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Tel: (b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Tuverson, Robert - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:37 PM  
**To:** FSIS - OPACE/FSE  
**Subject:** FW: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

Not a whole lot more guidance on how to handle pink slime calls. But we'll take what we can get. See below.

**Robert T. Tuverson**

Director, Food Safety Education Staff  
Office of Public Affairs & Consumer Education  
USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service  
(301) 344-4747

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:23 PM  
**To:** FSIS - OPACE/Managers  
**Subject:** USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

All,

As (b) (6) astutely notes, the USDA issued a press release on beef purchases for schools in the coming year. Couple of points I would stress to folks:

This is a USDA decision, NOT an FSIS position. You can share the content of the press release and point folks to the USDA website for additional information. Key passage below:

By law, USDA has two primary responsibilities as part of its mandate to provide safe and nutritious food to the American people. Through the Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA ensures that safety of the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and processed egg products. Through the Food and Nutrition Service and the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA provides food and nutrition assistance through several domestic programs, including the National School Lunch Program.

There is no need to be defensive. This is a safe product or else USDA wouldn't allow it in commerce.

Please share with your staff that may be contacted by the public. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
**Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs**  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:04 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

And here we are. Presumably this supersedes OC's previous statement?

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** USDA Office of Communications [mailto:[usda@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:usda@public.govdelivery.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:47 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

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You are subscribed to USDA Office of Communications.

Release No. 0094.12

Contact:  
Office of Communications (202)720-4623

USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

## *USDA Affirms Safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef Product for Consumers*

WASHINGTON, March 15, 2012 – In response to requests from school districts across the country, the USDA announced today that it will offer more choices to schools in the National School Lunch Program when it comes to purchases of ground beef products.

USDA only purchases products for the school lunch program that are safe, nutritious and affordable – including all products containing Lean Finely Textured Beef. However, due to customer demand, the department will be adjusting procurement specifications for the next school year so schools can have additional options in procuring ground beef products. USDA will provide schools with a choice to order product either with or without Lean Finely Textured Beef.

USDA continues to affirm the safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef product for all consumers and urges customers to consult science based information on the safety and quality of this product. Lean Finely Textured Beef is a meat product derived from a process which separates fatty pieces from beef trimmings to reduce the overall fat content.

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While USDA sets national nutritional guidelines for school meals, school districts make local decisions on what food to feed kids to meet these guidelines. On average, schools in the National School Lunch Program purchase approximately 20 percent of their food through USDA, and approximately 80 percent of food served is purchased directly by schools or school districts through private vendors. Schools purchase food from the department through the [USDA Foods Program](#), which provides more than 180 nutritious food items that are fresh, frozen, packaged, canned, dried, or in bulk. USDA procures these products based on the demand from schools to help meet the menu planning needs, student taste preferences, school nutrition goals, and local wellness initiatives.

USDA ensures all food purchased for the National School Lunch Program meet stringent food safety standards, which includes rigorous pathogen testing. Purchase specifications are continually reviewed, microbial test results are evaluated, new food safety technologies are considered, and food safety experts are consulted to determine the adequacy of our food safety requirements.

#

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This email was sent to (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov using GovDelivery, on behalf of: USDA Office of Communications · 1400 Independence Ave SW · Washington DC 20250



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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:36:44 PM

---

That's going to silence all the critics – very catchy.

(b) (6), DVM  
USDA/FSIS/OOEET/CFL  
Regional Public Health Training Coordinator  
Zorinsky Federal Building  
1616 Capitol Ave., Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102  
(b) (6) office)  
(b) (6) (BBY)  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

*"Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts." Winston Churchill*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:13 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

Pink slime response

Release No. 0094.12

Contact:  
Office of Communications (202)720-4623

## USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

### *USDA Affirms Safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef Product for Consumers*

WASHINGTON, March 15, 2012 – In response to requests from school districts across the country, the USDA announced today that it will offer more choices to schools in the National School Lunch Program when it comes to purchases of ground beef products.

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#

users).

**From:** [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:18:12 PM

---

ok

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director

ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building

Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250

Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:18 PM  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

Ok – she’s working on a revised draft now.

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)

Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S

Washington, D.C. 20250

Office: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year

Think I actually returned this back to (b) (6) not you.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director

ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building

Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250

Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly



**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Thaler, Alice - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: USDA/ Pink Slime Added to 70% Of Our Hamburger  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:57:05 PM

---

Thank you. We will make sure it gets routed appropriately within OPACE (typically to ECIMS/correspondence) for reply. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Thaler, Alice - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:55 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Cc:** Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: USDA/ Pink Slime Added to 70% Of Our Hamburger

Please direct this misdirected consumer comment to CPA for a response.

Alice M. Thaler, DVM, DACVPM  
Senior Director for Program Services  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Health Science  
Patriot Plaza III  
Stop 3766, PP 3, 9-178  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
202-690-2687  
BB 202-431-1109  
Fax 202-690-6337  
[alice.thaler@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:alice.thaler@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Darold Holden [mailto:[\(b\) \(6\)](#)@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:02 AM  
**To:** Thaler, Alice - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS  
**Subject:** : USDA/ Pink Slime Added to 70% Of Our Hamburger

[http://www.google.com/search?sourceid=navclient&aq=4&oq=USDA%2f&ie=UTF-8&rlz=1T4LENP\\_en\\_US473&q=usda%2fpink+slime&gs\\_upl=0I0I0I219808IIIIIIII0&aqj=g4s1&pbx=1](http://www.google.com/search?sourceid=navclient&aq=4&oq=USDA%2f&ie=UTF-8&rlz=1T4LENP_en_US473&q=usda%2fpink+slime&gs_upl=0I0I0I219808IIIIIIII0&aqj=g4s1&pbx=1)

Hello



**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [McIntire, Richard - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Useful article on "pink slime"  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:14:38 PM

---

A friend of mine gave me grief about it over the weekend. I told him there's nothing wrong with it, food safety-wise, as long as he cooks it to the proper temperature.

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460

[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

---

**From:** McIntire, Richard - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:12 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Cochran, Catherine - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS; Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Cc:** Boody, Elizabeth - FSIS  
**Subject:** Useful article on 'pink slime'

In case someone wants the science behind it—though it mostly comes from the industry side; I'm sure Marler wouldn't have run it if he disagreed.

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/whats-wrong-with-pink-slime/>

Richard J. McIntire

Public Affairs Specialist

Food Safety & Inspection Service

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

1400 Independence Ave., SW

Wash., D.C. 20250

[richard.mcintire@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:richard.mcintire@fsis.usda.gov)

Ofc.: 202/690-0417; Cell./BB: 202/573-4292

**From:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Walk, etc.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:01:42 PM

---

[Lots of work at homers here!](#)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:58 PM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** Walk, etc.

Took a walk to the "Hill" and passed the Supreme Court. As I headed back a tourist said something about "John or Bob Kerry." I turned around and sure enough, John Kerry was behind me.

It seems that Carl may be one of the part in the pink slime affair. He was shown in one of the news video with Gerald Z.

It is far too quiet on your floor. Is everyone asleep or was it nap time?

(b) (6)  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
Patriots Plaza III, 8-161B

355 E Street SW

Washington, DC 20024-3221

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: We need to talk about this pink slime issue  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:37:52 AM

---

Ok, sending out the invite right now and will include Diane if she'd like to join as well.

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:37 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: We need to talk about this pink slime issue

8:30 okay? Ask Karen has quite a few questions and I know (b) (6) is forwarding them but they are the same question we are getting on the Hotline. I'm copying them to a word document now and will forward to you shortly.

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/F SIS Food Safety Education Staff

2L-248D

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:36 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: We need to talk about this pink slime issue

What time (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:36 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** We need to talk about this pink slime issue

Can we have a meeting this morning (b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/F SIS Food Safety Education Staff

2L-248D

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: web mail and Karen this week and next Monday  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:40:43 AM

---

No problem. Have fun ☺

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:40 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: web mail and Karen this week and next Monday

Thanks (b) (6)

I noticed when I checked there were almost none for me left...

Ok, sure, please if you could do some today that would be great—

I'll be downtown in DC for the NNM event – back by 3 pm or so.

Tina will 'act' today for the HL

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 4:35 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: web mail and Karen this week and next Monday

(b) (6)

I emptied the MPHotline box day; We didn't receive many in the Webmaster box.

I can help again tomorrow if needed.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 4:12 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: web mail and Karen this week and next Monday

Friendly reminder: please continue to answer webmail and Karen through next Monday—

FLS's please handle accordingly, if we need to 'split up the duties'

Tomorrow, Wednesday, March 14, Tina will be acting HL Mgr most of the day—

I'll be at the NNM downtown DC, returning in mid-afternoon (2:45 pm ?? approx.)

Have a nice one!

(and ..hopefully pink-slime FREE)

Thanks

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:35 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS

**Subject:** web mail and Karen this week and next Monday

Hi everyone.

I'm leaving shortly to go to California for a week to visit my son.

While I'm there I will be able to work, but we do have sightseeing plans, and it is 3 hours earlier. I don't know what my schedule will be. <:o)

Please check both mail boxes and Karen daily to make sure the questions don't sit too long.

The web mail (FSIS and MPHotline mail boxes) and Karen are getting a lot of inquiries about ammonium hydroxide, as you can imagine. Just forward those to ECIMS ([fsis@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis@fsis.usda.gov)).

Thank you for your help with the webmail this week!

(b) (6)

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

Food Safety Education Staff

Food Safety and Inspection Service

phone: (b) (6)

[REDACTED] (b) (6) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (6) [REDACTED] usda.gov

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: week ending 3-24-12  
Date: Friday, March 23, 2012 10:47:10 AM

---

Hi (b) (6),

Thanks so much!

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (202) 720-7609*

*Email: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)*

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 10:36 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: week ending 3-24-12

**SIGNIFICANT FOIA** – Received on March 19, 2012, from Linda Larsen (Food Poisoning Bulletin, Minneapolis, Minnesota) requesting a copy of documents regarding nutrition information, including protein content, fat content, and nutrient content for finely textured beef product, known as “pink slime”, from March 18, 2010 to March 18, 2012.

(b) (6)

Management Analyst

USDA/FSIS/FOIA

Washington, DC 20250

Office: (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Weekly report 3/30/12  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:37:22 PM

---

Thanks (b) (6)

Have a good weekend and good week off!

(b) (6)

Frontline Supervisor

Albuquerque Circuit

Denver District

BB: (b) (6)

-| -| -|-|-| -|-|-| -|-| -|-|-|-| -|-|-| -|-|-| -|-|-|  
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-| -| -| -| -| -| -| -| -| -| -| -|  
-|-| -|-|-| -|-|-| -| -| -| -|-|-| -|-|-| -|-|-|

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 12:14 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS  
**Subject:** Weekly report 3/30/12

MOI's: << File: EL33012.pdf >> << File: RR32812.pdf >> << File: PF33012.pdf >>

Policy: << Message: FW: Off-site cleaning (Pete Duryea) [Incident: 120328-000024] >> << Message: FW: cotton gloves [Incident: 120328-000051] >>

Information: << Message: FW: "Pink Slime" Information >>

General: It's been an ordeal this week as I have been looking for answers to plant questions but I have managed it well.

I have been in contact with the relief inspector (b) (6) and updated him on the on-goings of my establishments as he will be here as of next week.

34403 Red rock has been on edge and only processed 3 days this week, there were more

issue's with employees but this time on a production level not a regulatory issue. It's still tense there so I have explained to (b) (6) some of the recent events.

SSOP's are being reviewed and they are considering (b) (4). Which they feel better suits the process. They have had many questions and I have tried to be professional and forth coming, but in the end to change a process doesn't happen at my level. I have explained that to them as well as protocol of the decision making process.

To stream line the question/answer I have helped the owner Curtis Cox set up an account with ask FSIS and explained that even if he gets the answer he wants, it doesn't mean he can just do it without any proof of his process, or our approval.

Other: << Message: RE: Santa Fe Environmental Health >> I have also turned in an issue of some to concern with state inspection who has come to me asking for help with an issue. I referred them to the CSO (b) (6) over this issue.

All and all I try to maintain our image to the public and I feel I have some success.

So that's it for this week I hope you all have a great weekend and that if you bought a lotto ticket you win and share😊! Be safe.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: what makes pink slime ok to feed to....well anybody, but especially children... ...  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 21, 2011 12:10:27 PM

---

Hi (b) (6)

Thanks!

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*  
*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*  
*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*  
*Food Safety and Inspection Service*  
*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1170-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*  
*Phone: (b) (6) Fax: (202) 720-7609*

**Email:** (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

-

*"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 21, 2011 11:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Carpenter, Janice - FSIS  
**Subject:** FWD: what makes pink slime ok to feed to....well anybody, but especially children... ...

The following incident has been forwarded to you by:

(b) (6) ((b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov))

#### Sender's Comment

Hi (b) (6)  
Another pink slime inquiry!

thanks,

(b) (6)

#### Contact Information

**Email Address:** (b) (6) @yahoo.com  
**First Name:**  
**Last Name:**  
**Type:**  
**Title:**

**Reference #110920-000043**

**Summary:** what makes pink slime ok to feed to....well anybody, but especially children... ...

**Rule State:** 999 - Finished

**Date Created:** 09/20/2011 06:04 PM

**Last Updated:** 09/20/2011 06:04 PM

**Status:** Unresolved

**Assigned:**

**Country:**

**State:**

**First Time Chatting?:**

#### Discussion Thread

**Customer By Web Form**

09/20/2011 06:04 PM

what makes pink slime ok to feed to....well anybody, but especially children... how come the school lunch programs use such a disgusting product (pink slime)?



**From:** (b) (6) - APHIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: what ya into today?  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 9:38:15 AM

---

Lovely desk work it is for me today, swamped!

Long wknd- good for you! BTW, meant to tell u that house I mentioned is off mkt now so u don't waste your time.

Have u guys been busy regarding pink slime publicity?

(b) (6)

Smuggling Interdiction & Trade Compliance Officer Ohio

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection & Quarantine  
Tel (b) (6)  
Fax 614-322-4713

"This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately."

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 9:23 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - APHIS  
**Subject:** Re: what ya into today?

Not much, working on my Performance mid-year crap. I'm only working till 11am; heading to Nationwide with old College Roomy's this afternoon for March Madness!!!

What are "you" up to?????????

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Device.....

(b) (6), Investigator  
U.S. Dept of Agriculture - FSIS  
Office of Program Evaluation,  
Enforcement and Review  
Compliance & Investigations Division  
155 E. Columbus Street  
Pickerington, OH 43147

(b) (6) Office  
(b) (6) Blackberry  
614-833-9901 Fax  
email: (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - APHIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 08:19 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** what ya into today?

(b) (6)  
Smuggling Interdiction & Trade Compliance Officer Ohio

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection & Quarantine  
Tel (b) (6)  
Fax 614-322-4713

"This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately."

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: What's Wrong With Pink Slime?  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:26:50 AM

---

I meant to use Lean Finely Textured Beef, or LFTB - a far less catchy, but more accurate name, vs. the FTLB.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 9:25 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: What's Wrong With Pink Slime?

Hi everyone,

There has been a lot of attention going out on the USDA and ground beef (especially ABC news) on "pine slime". I have forwarded you the below hyperlink (or copy and paste this) to have the facts on the ground beef issue. It is an interesting situation, but probably is being exaggerated on the negative side of things.

So, please take a look and understand the facts, because I'm sure you will be getting more questions on the issue. The USDA is buying millions of dollars worth of this FTLB product for the school lunch programs as well.

Any questions on it, just let me know. Thanks, make it a great day.

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Greg [mailto:(b) (6)@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** What's Wrong With Pink Slime?

[http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/whats-wrong-with-pink-slime/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=120312](http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/whats-wrong-with-pink-slime/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=120312)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: What's Wrong With Pink Slime?  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:18:01 PM

---

It goes to show you about being careful on what you read. What you have are the facts on the product! It's from Food Safety Magazine and has the details you can use to judge appropriately! Cool aye?!

Dr. (b) (6) just sent you a PHIS missing slaughter data needed. Can you just ensure you check each week before leaving on Friday that you have all that data in, unless there is a mistake? Thanks much

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:16 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: What's Wrong With Pink Slime?

So the article I read, and the video I viewed which both stated that tendons and eyeballs were also an ingredient ... is false. Why on earth would someone who wrote the article make such a statement that was an out and out lie?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 9:25 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: What's Wrong With Pink Slime?

Hi everyone,

There has been a lot of attention going out on the USDA and ground beef (especially ABC news) on "pine slime". I have forwarded you the below hyperlink (or copy and paste this) to have the facts on the ground beef issue. It is an interesting situation, but probably is being exaggerated on the negative side of things.

So, please take a look and understand the facts, because I'm sure you will be getting more questions on the issue. The USDA is buying millions of dollars worth of this FTLB product for the school lunch programs as well.

Any questions on it, just let me know. Thanks, make it a great day.

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Greg [mailto:(b) (6)@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** What's Wrong With Pink Slime?

[http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/whats-wrong-with-pink-slime/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=120312](http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/whats-wrong-with-pink-slime/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=120312)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:20:46 PM

---

Kind of what I figured. Looks like some news hungry person is trying to make something out of what is safe. Just that the work slim was added to gross people out and make a big deal out of it. There is always more than one side to a story. Guess that's why I don't like talking to my father. He is very one sided about anything and it is always is Obama's fault. And he wonders why I seldom call him ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:13 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

Ok...Thanks for sharing even though "pink slime" doesn't bother me. We've been eating it for years and no one has said anything about it so why all the fuss now?? Ammonium hydroxide has been accepted for years as an anti microbial.

<< File: FSIS Directive 7120 1 Revision 7 Safe and Suitable Ingredients Used in the Production of Meat Poultry and Egg Products.doc >>

Why don't people pass around the above FSIS Directive 7120.1 instead of more stories of "eeww.....no pink slime here"?? At least it would be the truth.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:43 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

## Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

[<< OLE Object: Picture \(Device Independent Bitmap\) >>](#)

Which is which? The hamburger made from ground beef containing what is derisively referred to as "pink slime," or what the meat industry calls "lean, finely textured beef," is on the right. The other one is pure 85% lean ground beef. (AP Photo/Jim Cole)

[<< OLE Object: Picture \(Device Independent Bitmap\) >>](#)

In this undated image released by Beef Products Inc., boneless lean beef trimmings are shown before packaging (aka "pink slime"). (AP Photo/Beef Products Inc.)

You've heard about the "pink slime," right? It's that meat filler made from slaughterhouse scraps that is treated with ammonia. (Yum!) Last week the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced plans to buy 7 million pounds of it. A federal microbiologist nicknamed the filler "pink slime."

[The Daily](#), the iPad newspaper from News Corp., has figured out which stores sell ground meat that contains pink slime.

According to [The Daily](#), these are among the stores that say they **do not sell meat with pink slime**:

- A&P
- Whole Foods
- Costco
- Publix
- H-E-B
- Waldbaum's
- Price Chopper

These are among the stores that **do not sell pink slime in store-ground meat, but sell pre-packaged ground beef from suppliers that may contain pink slime**:

- Jewel-Osco
- Kroger
- Food Lion
- Winco
- Fred Meyer

These are among the stores that **sell store-ground meat with pink slime**, according to [The Daily](#):

- Target
- BJ's
- Hy-Vee
- Safeway

- Walmart
- Albertsons
- Stop & Shop
- Zaycon Foods

School districts nationwide will be able to opt out of serving “pink slime,” after [the USDA announced](#) March 15 that beginning next fall, schools involved in the national school lunch program will have the option of avoiding the product.

Posted By: [Laura Weisman](#) ( [Email](#) ) | Mar 19 at 8:54 am

Listed Under: [Food](#), [The Daily](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments & Replies \(0\)](#)[Comments & Replies \(1\)](#)[Comments & Replies \(246\)](#) : [Post Comment](#)[Post Comment](#)[Post Comment](#)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:34:51 AM

---

Good Morning (b) (6) or good afternoon when you start.

That is why I grind my own. I know what I am getting. When they eliminate us all and turn it over to the DO's and Eiao's I will be eating my own beef, pork, and chicken.

I would say we will see less than daily inspection in 5-10 years or sooner. Once they gut the poultry lines they will start on processing jobs so pink slime will be the least of consumers worries. Have good evening. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

Hate to say it but the pink slime burger looks better to me. yuck

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:33 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

(b) (6)



**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Subscription to MeatingPlace  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:39:56 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)

---

You are correct to point that out... the Department (thankfully) is aware these aren't FSIS issues when they read through the story.

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:34 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Subscription to MeatingPlace

It also just may be helpful for them to have—the articles deal with prices, marketing, international issues.. things other than food safety that pertain to the department.

**Cathy Cochran, *Public Affairs Specialist***  
Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-0428, Cell: 202-527-0607  
[Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)  
[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)  
PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:30 AM

**To:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; McIntire, Richard - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Subscription to MeatingPlace

Thanks, Cathy! I'll get it over to them and let them know how to sign up (so maybe they can do the legwork themselves!)

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Cochran, Catherine - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:29 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; McIntire, Richard - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Subscription to MeatingPlace

Here are two. Not sure which he's looking for.

By the way—Meatingplace subscription is free. They can sign up using their USDA email addresses.

Industry News - PM  
The LFTB story's newest developments

By [Lisa M. Keefe](#) on 3/21/2012

The LFTB snowball just keeps rolling on.

The past day or so has brought several new developments in the ongoing controversy over lean finely textured beef (that critics call "pink slime").



#### **Retail**

While several retailers, including Costco, have made statements that they do not carry ground beef that includes LFTB, earlier today Safeway Inc. became the first major supermarket chain to say that it will no longer carry ground beef with LFTB.

According to a report on abcnews.com, "considerable consumer concern" led the company to this decision, even as the chain said its beef with the controversial LFTB in it is safe.

"Safeway is committed to providing our customers with the highest-quality products," the company reportedly said in a statement. "While the USDA and food industry experts agree that lean finely textured beef is safe and wholesome, recent news stories have caused considerable consumer concern about this product. Safeway will no longer purchase ground beef containing lean finely textured beef."

Safeway has 1,400 stores coast to coast, second only to Kroger.

In response, Beef Products Inc. released this statement:

"We understand consumer concern, but together food makers and food sellers need to provide information to consumers so they can make informed decisions. When science, food safety and food quality do not rule the day, everyone — whether you sell food or eat food — loses. Lean Beef Trimmings is 100% beef — trimmed right off a steak or roast. And whether it's steaks, roasts or ground beef, it is all made in facilities that use smart safety interventions to deliver it in the safest form possible to the consumer. From a ground beef perspective, the only difference here is whether it is finely ground or coarsely ground."

Safeway executives did not respond to requests for additional information.

#### **Meanwhile ...**

Chef Jamie Oliver, who caused an uproar a year ago by dousing red meat with household ammonia to illustrate the antimicrobial processes used by Beef Products Inc., has launched a website, [stoppinkslime.org](http://stoppinkslime.org).

In it, he encourages visitors to petition and tweet to the USDA demands that the agency disallow the use of LFTB in any products manufactured in the United States.

#### **More education**

Finally, American Meat Institute spokeswoman Janet Riley is front-and-center in a new video issued by that organization as part of its MeatNewsNetwork on YouTube. In it she describes the process by which LFTB is made, and seeks to set the record straight on the product and its use in ground beef. Watch the [video](#) here.

#### **Industry News - AM**

### **Fat cattle, LFTB controversy hitting beef trim margins**

By [Rita Jane Gabbett](#) on 3/21/2012

Increased cattle carcass weights — brought on by a warm winter — is bringing fatter cattle to market, which doesn't mean more steaks so much as it means more beef trim.



That, along with reduced demand for lean finely textured beef (LFTB) due to the media storm and its new "pink slime" nickname, is lowering trim prices and punishing overall cutout values, livestock analyst Len Steiner wrote in the CME Group's Daily Livestock Report.

Steer weights have jumped to around 850 pounds per carcass, up from 829 pounds a year ago and the five-year average of 828 pounds, according to Steiner. The increased weights have added about 11.1 million pounds of beef to the supply chain — the equivalent of almost 20,000 more head of cattle.

Ample fat trim supplies have pressured the benchmark 50CL (leanness measure) beef trim price, which is now down 17 percent from a year ago.

"Also negative for the fat trim market has been the recent furor about LFTB, which is a by-product of fat trim. With less demand for LFTB, it is likely that packers have had to change some of their trim practices and generate more 50CL beef rather than 30CL or so," Steiner wrote. "As a result, we are now seeing significant premiums paid for lean and extra lean product (generally from cows) and discounts for fat."

**Cathy Cochran, Public Affairs Specialist**

Congressional and Public Affairs, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Rm. 1180-South Building

Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-0428, Cell: 202-527-0607  
Catherine.Cochran@fsis.usda.gov  
[www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety)  
[twitter.com/usdafoodsafety](http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)  
PHIS is coming. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>.

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:25 AM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Cochran, Catherine - FSIS; McIntire, Richard - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Subscription to MeatingPlace

Can someone please log into MeatingPlace and pull the article OC is looking for?

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:23 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** Subscription to MeatingPlace

There is an article on LFTB and prices dropping – can your team dig that up? We don't have a subscription.

**Aaron Lavallee**  
Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.720.6959  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov)  
<http://www.usda.gov>

*Stay Connected with USDA:*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Take a look at this  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 8:35:55 AM

---

Yeah great name for it.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 8:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Take a look at this

If you're interested, the link below should take you to pink slime story. I enjoyed the part of story where they said the price would go up or they would have to "import trimmings" if they can't use pink slime. Ya, like that's something new.

Inspector (b) (6)  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety Inspection Service  
Office of International Affairs  
Import Inspection Division  
(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6)@verizon.net [mailto:(b) (6)@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 5:43 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Take a look at this

Hi,

more pink slime

I thought you'd like this:  
<http://soc.li/0wxr7iS>

---

This email is a direct message from a friend who wants to share an item of interest with you.

This email message is powered by Gigya's sharing technology. If you no longer wish to receive messages that are sent via Gigya's service, please click here <[http://www.gigya.com/site/landing.aspx?ut=dBFII5RbVxUc8nBdc3bMDT7hmmrIvgen1wCG\\_dxqadJhAAWkNZSIhV-1DGKZvwZO-DQUg5JS8Y61ukrjwOp8p81S9pP6R\\_BhovjemyHtbA0dAsx-PMuL2zIosIac-rUvj3ITh1WL6rg0IY1bFO3pdt1xwywwddkLnBQzfon11KP1vwjIOqGjXs\\_iu2h8CdJQARL5HJwzkLKJ57a27gSfNYqKXrQNvyGj2HVd9QAHAsQ6tOUNRSI914NfkazIt5B-7JfqRUJrC13TIRZQIUeKJVQyIWoi-tqYj0XbPWgR4D6snlewbxyY2u0hd5InC\\_hqIFXrH2czyYRhn6m6cR17vDS60Y11yWMzNZ4unIBLPUAUK.>](http://www.gigya.com/site/landing.aspx?ut=dBFII5RbVxUc8nBdc3bMDT7hmmrIvgen1wCG_dxqadJhAAWkNZSIhV-1DGKZvwZO-DQUg5JS8Y61ukrjwOp8p81S9pP6R_BhovjemyHtbA0dAsx-PMuL2zIosIac-rUvj3ITh1WL6rg0IY1bFO3pdt1xwywwddkLnBQzfon11KP1vwjIOqGjXs_iu2h8CdJQARL5HJwzkLKJ57a27gSfNYqKXrQNvyGj2HVd9QAHAsQ6tOUNRSI914NfkazIt5B-7JfqRUJrC13TIRZQIUeKJVQyIWoi-tqYj0XbPWgR4D6snlewbxyY2u0hd5InC_hqIFXrH2czyYRhn6m6cR17vDS60Y11yWMzNZ4unIBLPUAUK.>)> to remove your email address.  
Gigya Inc., 1975 Landings Dr., Mountain View, CA 94043.

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Yee, Julie - FNS; (b) (6) - AMS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Talking points on Lean Finely Textured Beef - Ammonium Hydroxide  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:41:03 PM

---

Will do

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:38 PM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Yee, Julie - FNS; (b) (6) - AMS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** RE: Talking points on Lean Finely Textured Beef - Ammonium Hydroxide

Please let OC know if any inquiries come in – we are tracking this closely.

---

**From:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:37 PM  
**To:** Yee, Julie - FNS; (b) (6) - AMS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; (b) (6) - FNS; Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** Re: Talking points on Lean Finely Textured Beef - Ammonium Hydroxide

This is approved from OC  
Contact Aaron Lavallee if you have questions

“All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce - and especially into schools - that we have confidence are safe.”

ON BACKGROUND:

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP), administered by the USDA, purchases approximately 20 percent of the products served in schools across the country. In other words, the majority, approximately 80 percent, is purchased by schools or school districts directly through private vendors and not USDA. In its role as the purchasing agent, to quantify how much of a particular product purchased by USDA is served in specific school districts or specific schools is difficult to measure and depends upon a case by case or even school-by-school basis. Procurement officials for schools may have this information.

Since the early 1990s, Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) has been allowed as a component of the ground beef purchased by USDA for distribution through the NSLP. The maximum allowable percentage of LFTB that may be formulated into single servings of the ground beef purchased for the NSLP is 15 percent, which is similar to the composition found in many commercially available ground beef products. USDA does not purchase LFTB directly.

All USDA beef purchases for the NSLP and other Federal food and nutrition assistance programs meet very high food safety standards, which include stringent pathogen testing. Beef supplied by BPI as a component of the beef products purchased by USDA for the NSLP is subject to the same strict pathogen testing requirements for beef raw ingredients.

---

**From:** Yee, Julie - FNS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:26 PM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** Talking points on Lean Finely Textured Beef - Ammonium Hydroxide

Mike and (b) (6)

Are there any fact sheets or talking points that you have shared with the media that you can forward to us?

Thanks.

Julie L.K. Yee






---

**From:** Yee, Julie - FNS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 4:01 PM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** FYI: petition online - Keep Slaughterhouse Floor Sweepings Out Of Kids' School Lunches

Mike and (b) (6)

FYI: A former colleague got this message regarding the online petition. (See below.)

Julie L.K. Yee, Public Affairs  
[USDA Food and Nutrition Service](#), Western Region  
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 705-1350 x530   
Fax: (415) 705-1364   
[julie.yee@fns.usda.gov](mailto:julie.yee@fns.usda.gov) 




<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns>

---

From: aolfriends@earth.care2.com  
Reply-to: ng-r-11-7878453-8632184-13206550-40b296b8@australia.care2.com  
To: (b) (6) @aol.com  
Sent: 3/6/2012 3:42:14 P.M. Pacific Standard Time  
Subj: Keep Slaughterhouse Floor Sweepings Out Of Kids's School Lunches

Care2 subscriber since Jan 23, 2012

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 you have [717 butterfly credits](#)

[http://www.care2.com/go/z/e/AGE9X/zmil/pBo\\_](http://www.care2.com/go/z/e/AGE9X/zmil/pBo_)

Hi (b) (6)


Hamburger meat now used in public school lunches now contains trimmings that the industry once only used as pet food. **These trimmings include germ-ridden bits of skin, fatty sweepings from the slaughterhouse floor, and other parts previously labeled as "inedible" by the Food and Drug Administration.** Now, chances are they're being served in your kid's cafeteria.

[Tell the USDA that these cheap additives have no businesses in school lunches. »](#)

In order to render this undesirable meat at all edible, beef production companies grind it into a paste, separate out the fat, and lace the substance with ammonia to kill the pathogens present. **The U.S. Department of Agriculture will buy 7 million pounds of the resulting gunk--also known as "pink slime"--for school lunches in the coming months.**

Taco Bell, McDonald's, and Burger King have all stopped selling beef containing "pink slime." So why is the USDA feeding it to kids?

[Tell the USDA to stop using "pink slime" in school lunches. »](#)

 Thanks for taking action!

Kathleen

ThePetitionSite

Take action link: [http://www.care2.com/go/z/e/AGE9X/zmil/pBo\\_](http://www.care2.com/go/z/e/AGE9X/zmil/pBo_)

Keep Slaughterhouse Floor  
Sweepings Out of Cafeterias



To stop receiving this newsletter, visit:

<http://www.care2.com/newsletters/unsub/11/0/7878453/13db79e0>

or send a blank email message to:

[ng-u-11-7878453-8632184-13206550-754729d9@australia.care2.com](mailto:ng-u-11-7878453-8632184-13206550-754729d9@australia.care2.com)

Care2.com, Inc.

275 Shoreline Drive, Suite 300

Redwood City, CA 94065

<http://www.care2.com>



**From:** (b) (6) - Contractor - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - Contractors - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Tasker FY12-0411: RUSH RUSH RUSH-- Review and comment for draft FSIS Notice Pre-Implementation Information on the Upcoming FSIS Non-O157 Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli (STEC) Verification Testing Program  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:14:40 PM

---

No comment – maybe this is helping get rid of the pink slime beef.

(b) (6), CISSP, PMP  
IAD Contractor Support  
Customer Value Partners, Inc.

USDA/FSIS/OA/OCIO/IAD  
1400 Independence Ave SW, RM 4910

Washington D.C., DC 20250-0002

Office: (b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 260-8656

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the help desk  
<http://service/footprints>

Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other personal data assistant or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident? Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1-(800) 473-9135.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 5:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
(OCIO/IAD) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Tasker FY12-0411: RUSH RUSH RUSH-- Review and comment for draft FSIS Notice Pre-Implementation Information on the Upcoming FSIS Non-O157 Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli (STEC) Verification Testing Program

Hi Team,

Attached is Tasker FY12-0411: RUSH-- Review and comment for draft FSIS Notice Pre-Implementation Information on the Upcoming FSIS Non-O157 Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli (STEC) Verification Testing Program.

<< File: (0411 due 3-27) FSIS Notice Pre Imp Info Upcoming FSIS Non O157 Shiga Toxin Producing E coli STEC Samp Prog Raw Beef Manuf Trim.docx >>

Please notice that this is a RUSH tasker. Please review and return with comments by **10am tomorrow, 3/27.**

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

IAD Contractor Support  
Customer Value Partners, Inc.

USDA/FSIS/OA/OCIO/IAD  
1400 Independence Ave, SW Room# 4910  
Washington DC 20250

Phone: (b) (6)

Have a hardware, software or connectivity issue? Leave a Footprint at the help desk <http://service/footprints>

Lost/stolen laptop, Blackberry or other personal data assistant or Personally Identifiable Identification (PII) incident?  
Immediately contact USDA at 1-877-Pii2You 1-888-926-2373, 24 hours a day, then contact the FSIS Service Desk at 1-(800) 473-9135.

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Telephone inquiry  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:02:13 PM

---

You are welcome.

I will some checking on that other from late Friday re: Halal meat concern.

---

**From:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:35 AM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Telephone inquiry

Thanks Peggy.

---

**From:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)@pwcs.edu  
**Subject:** Telephone inquiry

Good morning, Mr. Candland,

In response to your telephone call about the current controversy being referred to in the media as "pink slime." As you might imagine, we have been receiving numerous calls. We have been making the following statement. Please let us know if you need anything else from us.

"All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe."

Peggy Riek, Public Affairs Specialist

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Ave., SW, Rm. 1175-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202-720-7608; Fax: 202-690-0460

Margaret.Riek@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**From:** [Karlsons, Donna - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Van, Diane - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Tell Kathy the Pink Slime is going on.  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:50:58 AM

---

I did

## **Donna Karlsons**

Public Affairs Specialist

USDA/FSIS

Food Safety Education Staff

5601 Sunnyside Ave.

Beltsville, MD 20705

301-344-4764

301-504-0203 (fax)

[donna.karlsons@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:donna.karlsons@fsis.usda.gov)

[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:46 AM  
**To:** Karlsons, Donna - FSIS  
**Subject:** Tell Kathy the Pink Slime is going on.

Diane Van  
Deputy Director, Food Safety Education Staff

Office of Public Affairs & Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service  
5601 Sunnyside Ave., 2-L292  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301-344-4777 Phone  
301-504-0203 Fax

**(b) (6)** Blackberry

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: The beef industry is fighting back against the "pink Slime" headlines  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:24:21 AM

---

Thanks (b) (6)

I thoroughly enjoyed our week together. I learned a lot from all you.  
I've been educating my wife and have her head spinning.

Thanks for the prayers for my Dad.

Regards and stay safe.

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: The beef industry is fighting back against the "pink Slime" headlines  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 12:16:16 PM

---

(b) (6)

You are welcome – Great course! The PT info I requested would be icing on the cake. I hope you can work it out for us.

(b) (6)

**Program Auditor**

**USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch**

**Edward Zorinsky Federal Building**

**1616 Capitol Ave, Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5980**

(b) (6) (office), (b) (6) (mobile), (402) 344-5104 (Fax)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: The beef industry is fighting back against the "pink Slime" headlines

Hi (b) (6)

Thank you for the information and nice words. I'll let you know if I hear from FLETC regarding the PT inquiry.

Take Care,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) @dhs.gov; (b) (6) @dhs.gov  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** The beef industry is fighting back against the "pink Slime" headlines

Good morning,

I thought this web page might interest the two of you (and Tina) after all the discussion we had last week. I am sure this will be in the headlines for some time to come. It is good to look at things from both sides. Saying this product comes from "waste" trimmings isn't

really a fair description since the word waste suggests they are contaminated or inedible neither or which is true. Anyway you can judge for yourselves. This web link is sponsored by the company that makes the product so keep that in mind when you read it.

<http://pinkslimeisamyth.com/>

The week in Artesia was a fantastic experience for me. I sincerely appreciate the information that each of you and your colleagues provided to us. We do similar things as those of you in law enforcement but haven't approached our job with the same sense of personal safety, at least I haven't, that we learned last week. I hope to never have to put any of it into action but am grateful that your training has fine tuned my perception of what could be trouble.

Once again – Thank you!

If possible I am looking for some guidance related to our PT training. I remember many of the techniques we learned but I mostly remember Spencer throwing me around the room. It would be great if there were some sort of diagrams, PowerPoint presentations, or links to videos that we could refer to and refresh our memory. Anything you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

(b) (6) – I have started to pray for your dad and hope that his physical difficulties improve soon.

(b) (6)

Program Auditor

USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Ave, Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5980

(b) (6) (office), (b) (6) (mobile), (402) 344-5104 (Fax)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)



**From:** (b) (6) @aol.com  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: THE DOCTORS Investigate: What's Really in Your Food!  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2012 3:54:27 PM

---

I like your scripts line!

In a message dated 2/24/2012 3:18:24 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov writes:

Yes, we've already had calls to the hotline about this. I think they should be ashamed to terrify consumers. They should be forced to eat their own scripts.

Thanks for sending. Hope you are well and thriving.

Best,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) @aol.com [mailto:(b) (6) @aol.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2012 3:01 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) @uga.edu  
**Subject:** Fwd: THE DOCTORS Investigate: What's Really in Your Food!

Oh boy...here we go! Just wanted to give my colleagues involved in food safety science a heads up on this episode of The Doctors....in case you were not aware. Since when is Chef Rocco DiSpirito a food scientist?

First Dr. Oz and arsenic in apple juice, now this.

Please feel free to forward to colleagues.

Carolyn

---

**From:** (b) (6) @MPRM.com  
**To:** (b) (6) @carolynoneil.com  
**Sent:** 2/24/2012 2:49:35 P.M. Eastern Standard Time  
**Subj:** THE DOCTORS Investigate: What's Really in Your Food!

Hi there,

It's been four years since *Food Inc.* lifted the veil on America's food industry and exposed how the nation's food suppliers put profit ahead of the health of the consumer. But Americans are still being served harmful foods including burgers made out of pink slime, chicken "marinated" in chlorine and injected with salt water with sodium content equivalent to a serving of fries, artificial flavoring in ice cream that is otherwise used in lice killer and carcinogens in bread commonly found on the kitchen table – all government sanctioned ingredients.

On Monday, February 27, the hosts of the Emmy Award-winning syndicated talk show THE DOCTORS, along with special guest and celebrity chef Rocco DiSpirito, take a closer look at American food staples and examines the harmful additives and processes used to prepare them. Please feel free to share these highlights with your viewers:

- **Burgers\*** – Would you eat a burger made out of "pink slime"—the name given to the mechanically separated meat that's treated with ammonia hydroxide to kill bacteria like E-coli? McDonald's, Taco Bell and Burger King, once purveyors of pink slime, say they have discontinued their use of this meat, made from discarded beef (i.e. everything else from the cow that had been deemed inedible), but who still does? Schools serve it up daily in kids' lunches.
- **Chicken** –To disinfect and cool chicken post slaughter, chickens are often soaked in a chlorine bath with a water-to-chlorine ratio up to 50 times more potent than the local swimming pool. Then, to help hide the chlorine taste, the chickens are "plumped" with salt water, making the chickens larger in both weight and price. Plus, via a scientific experiment, THE DOCTORS determined that chlorine baths may not even rid chicken of the bacteria the chlorine bath is supposed to prevent.
- **Ice Cream** – One billion gallons of ice cream are consumed by Americans every year. The most popular flavor? Vanilla. Real vanilla beans are expensive, so to save money, many ice cream makers use a synthetic flavoring called piperonal which is also an ingredient in lice killer.
- **Bread** – Many breads are made with potassium bromate, which has been banned in Canada and the UK and has been named a carcinogen by the EPA, but has been approved by the FDA. Plus, azodicarbonamide, found in many manufactured donuts and hamburger buns - as well as plastics, rubber and foam - has been found to aggravate asthma symptoms and contribute respiratory problems in humans.

So, what does THE DOCTORS recommend to avoid these harmful foods?

- Read the fine print on labels!
  - Look for fewer ingredients with words you can pronounce
  - Avoid "artificial flavors" as much as possible
  - Avoid "artificial dyes", especially Red 40, Blue 1, Yellow 5 & 6
- Limit processed foods.
- While it's not economical for everyone to buy organic all the time, it's worth spending a few extra dollars on organic poultry and beef.

- To save money, purchase the whole chicken. Boneless, skinless chicken breasts are the most expensive by the pound.
  - Check the “sell by” dates, and plan to shop the day before when your butcher is likely to mark down the poultry and meat.
  - Consider buying direct from a farmer’s market
- Check the sodium levels on fresh and frozen chicken packaging.
  - A truly natural chicken breast has 50 to 75 mg. of sodium. If there’s more than that, the bird has been “plumped”.
- Cook for your family.
  - If you want to know what’s in your food, make it yourself.
  - It’s a great way to bond with your children and teach them about health.

Visit [www.thedoctorstv.com](http://www.thedoctorstv.com) for a cheat sheet that lists the harmful additives often hidden on food labels as well as a complete list of common additives to avoid. Also find a recipe for a delicious homemade, super low-calorie ice cream by Rocco DiSpirito.

Please feel free to use the photo below. Video clips are also available upon request.

Thanks,

Traci

\*Below is a photo of a 12 year-old burger THE DOCTORS' Dr. Jim Sears uses in nutrition lectures. Not even mold has grown on the meat because of all the added chemicals in there!



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**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FNS; [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; [Alexander, Bruce - FNS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: The Doctors on Mon  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2012 12:28:15 PM

---

Actually looping in Dirk and Jarvis this time. They have been killing the stories where possible – our answers and plans are still the same. If anything we need to be telling media inquiries to contact the company after we reiterate that the product is safe or at least “generally recognized” as such.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 12:14 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; Alexander, Bruce - FNS  
**Subject:** FW: The Doctors on Mon  
**Importance:** High

Hi (b) (6)

Have you heard anything about a segment on ammoniated beef airing today on The Doctors? We need to be ready – can you alert FSIS and AMS and come up with a strategy on response in case we get questions? Also, we should probably give the Q&A we prepared to SNA so they will have the facts. Thoughts?

Thanks!!

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Season Solorio [mailto:ssolorio@beef.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 11:18 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: The Doctors on Mon

Hi (b) (6)

Just following up on this—here is the link for the ground beef segment on The Doctors today: <http://www.thedoctorstv.com/videolib/init/6190>. As you can see, they do mention the school lunch program and “pink slime.”

Best,  
Season

---

**From:** Season Solorio  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2012 2:49 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** The Doctors on Mon

Dear (b) (6)

I hope that this note finds you well. I hate to bother you on a weekend, but we just received a

heads up that the Monday episode of "The Doctors" will be an "in-depth" investigative report about lean finely textured beef (often called "pink slime"). According to the press release below, which was sent out to a Food & Culinary Professionals listserve, the show will talk about this process and question the safety of this process. I wanted to let you know, as it seems they will discuss the fact that lean finely textured beef is often used in school lunch programs and I thought you may receive questions from your members.

Unfortunately, The Doctors does not air in DC until late afternoon; however, it does air in the Syracuse, NY market at 6 AM. I am trying to see if we can get a transcript and/or recording of the show when it airs first thing tomorrow morning, so that we can watch it and discuss whether or not we as NCBA need to be prepared for any media calls or put out a statement, etc. I'm happy to share the transcript and/or recording with you if we are able to get this tomorrow morning. Depending on what the show says, perhaps we can work together to reassure our stakeholders of the safety of beef in the school lunch program?

Sorry for the bad news on a Sunday, but wanted to be sure you were aware of this.

Best,  
Season Solorio  
Senior Director, Issues Management  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
202-879-9122  
[Ssolorio@beef.org](mailto:Ssolorio@beef.org)

**Date:** February 25, 2012 8:53:00 AM CST

**Subject: Heads up on "Food Scare Show" on The Doctors Feb 27th --including ice cream & burgers**

Got a heads up on the Food & Culinary Prof listserv that Monday's The Doctors will be using food scare tactics.

**From:** (b) (6) @ca5.uscourts.gov  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: The Pink Slime in Your Kid's School Lunch  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:32:28 PM

---

I figured you'd be busy trying to catch up. I can't wait to hear about your adventure!!! According to my calendar, I'm free any day this week, so it's your choice!

You let me know what works for you and when and that's what we'll do.

Love ya!

(b) (6)

(b) (6), JD MLS  
Head of Reference Services  
5th Circuit Court of Appeals Library  
New Orleans Headquarters  
600 Camp Street, Room 106  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
ph: (b) (6)  
fax: (504) 310-7578

**From:** "(b) (6) - FSIS" (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>  
**To:** (b) (6) @ca5.uscourts.gov"  
(b) (6) @ca5.uscourts.gov>  
**Date:** 03/13/2012 11:29 AM  
**Subject:** RE: The Pink Slime in Your Kid's School Lunch

(b) (6)

Sorry I haven't called you since I've been back, am trying to catch up both at work and at home. All is going better today. Thanks for the pink slime info...learned way to much about school lunch programs last week! We received a complaint yesterday on this stuff.

Are you free for lunch anytime the rest of this week? Let me know, love and miss ya!

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) @ca5.uscourts.gov [mailto:(b) (6) @ca5.uscourts.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: The Pink Slime in Your Kid's School Lunch

Thought you'd want to see the article on school lunches.

(b) (6), JD MLS  
Head of Reference Services  
5th Circuit Court of Appeals Library  
New Orleans Headquarters  
600 Camp Street, Room 106

New Orleans, LA 70130

ph: (b) (6)

fax: (504) 310-7578

----- Forwarded by (b) (6) /CA05/05/USCOURTS on 03/07/2012 07:14 AM

From: Tom Philpott at Mother Jones <do\_not\_reply@motherjones.com>

To: (b) (6) @ca5.uscourts.gov

Date: 03/07/2012 05:05 AM

Subject: The Pink Slime in Your Kid's School Lunch

-----|  
FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOOD + FARMING FROM TOM |

| PHILPOTT |

-----+-----|  
| (Embedded image moved to file: pic11538.jpg) | RECIPE OF THE WEEK

|  
| French Lentils: A  
Delicious (and Easy) Dinner|  
| Back in college,  
lentils were mushy, gray, |  
| and flavorless. Not  
anymore. [READ MORE] |

| MOTHER JONES | (Embedded image  
moved to file: |  
| March 7, 2012| pic19912.gif)Duke  
University Press |

| THE MAIN DISH |

| The Pink Slime in Your Kid's School Lunch | MORE FROM MOJO

| Hi! Tom Philpott here. I'm the food and ag | "The Lorax": Cue Fox  
News Freakout |  
| blogger at Mother Jones. Starting right now, | The film adaptation of  
Dr. Seuss' beloved |  
| I'll be sending out a weekly newsletter about| classic is fun,  
tree-friendly, and, |  
| the politics of food—everything from the way | apparently, a blood  
libel against job |  
| federal watchdog agencies mollicoddle the | creators everywhere.  
[READ MORE] |  
| meat industry to the latest alleged wonder |

| seeds cooked up by Monsanto and its ilk. But | (Embedded image moved  
to file: pic25667.gif) |

| it won't all be grim stuff from industrial | Mother  
Jones |

| ag's dark heart. I'll also report on the way |

| communities all over the country are building| Follow Tom Philpott on



Twitter

out alternatives.

Now onto the meaty stuff, as it were. This [Read the Tom Philpott blog](#)

week's post is about "pink slime"—the cheeky nickname for scraps of slaughtered cow that have been pulverized, defatted, subjected to ammonia steam to kill pathogens, and congealed into a filler for ground beef. Like a horror film villain, it takes a pounding but keeps coming back.

Last month McDonald's announced it would stop using the stuff. But just this week, pink slime got a de facto endorsement from none other than the USDA, which plans to keep buying millions of pounds of it for use in the National School Lunch Program. To find out the full story behind the return of pink slime, click here. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

#### SIDE DISH

Iowa Moves to Keep Its Factory Farms Shielded From View  
It could soon get a whole lot harder to see what's happening inside Big Ag operations in the heartland. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

#### ADVERTISEMENT

(Embedded image moved to file: pic01869.jpg)

(Embedded image moved to file: pic26299.gif) |

Duke University Press |

Hi. Thanks for signing up for Mother Jones' |

Food for Thought newsletter. Wait, that was |

your cat? Smart cat! If you don't want to get |

Food for Thought, or to make changes to your |

subscription, click here. And lock up the |

cat. |

MOTHERJONES.COM Mother Jones 222 Sutter |

Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94108 |

(Embedded image moved to file: pic17035.jpg) |

Mother Jones |

(Embedded image moved to file: pic09894.gif)

(Embedded image moved to file: pic28703.gif) Powered By  
Convio

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**From:** [Lisa Keefe](#)  
**To:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: this is a big development in pink slime saga  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:32:22 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[D8A20880-DFCC-4A5E-8C47-283A05A38DE9\[5\].png](#)

---

But I'm no lady. J

Lisa M. Keefe  
Editor, Meatingplace in Print  
Chicago  
312-274-2212



---

**From:** Neil Gaffney <[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)>  
**Date:** Thu, 15 Mar 2012 07:17:01 -0700  
**To:** Lisa Keefe <[lkeefe@meatingplace.com](mailto:lkeefe@meatingplace.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: this is a big development in pink slime saga

Oh, no, there's a long line, and if I'm gonna get shot it may as well be by a lady.

Neil Gaffney  
*Press Officer*  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460  
[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

---

**From:** Lisa Keefe [<mailto:lkeefe@meatingplace.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:16 AM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: this is a big development in pink slime saga

Wouldn't dream of it.

Lisa M. Keefe

Editor, Meatingplace in Print  
Chicago  
312-274-2212



---

**From:** Neil Gaffney <[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)>  
**Date:** Thu, 15 Mar 2012 07:09:32 -0700  
**To:** Lisa Keefe <[lkeefe@meatingplace.com](mailto:lkeefe@meatingplace.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: this is a big development in pink slime saga

Not trying to be an obstacle so please don't shoot the messenger. ☺

Neil Gaffney  
*Press Officer*  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460  
[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

---

**From:** Lisa Keefe [<mailto:lkeefe@meatingplace.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:09 AM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: this is a big development in pink slime saga

That's great. Meanwhile, I contact Michael Jarvis at AMS; he says he's looking into it.

Thanks!!!

Now I KNOW you really miss me ... ;>)  
Lisa M. Keefe  
Editor, Meatingplace in Print  
Chicago  
312-274-2212



---

**From:** Neil Gaffney <[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)>  
**Date:** Thu, 15 Mar 2012 07:07:29 -0700  
**To:** Lisa Keefe <[lkeefe@meatingplace.com](mailto:lkeefe@meatingplace.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: this is a big development in pink slime saga

Here's the number for O.C. : (202) 720-4623.  
I will let them know you are looking for information.

Neil Gaffney  
*Press Officer*  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460  
[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

---

**From:** Lisa Keefe [<mailto:lkeefe@meatingplace.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:56 AM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: this is a big development in pink slime saga

Neil: Can you tell me who the AMS contact is? I'm sure we've communicated with him/her, but not as often as we do you guys ...

Thanks!

Lisa M. Keefe  
Editor, Meatingplace in Print  
Chicago  
312-274-2212

**meatingplace**  
IN PRINT ONLINE

---

**From:** Janie Gabbett <[jgabbett@meatingplace.com](mailto:jgabbett@meatingplace.com)>  
**Date:** Thu, 15 Mar 2012 06:19:57 -0700

To: (b) (6) >  
Cc: Lisa Keefe <[lkeefe@meatingplace.com](mailto:lkeefe@meatingplace.com)>, (b) (6)  
Subject: this is a big development in pink slime saga

We'll need this in the p.m. newsletter. If they have not announced it by then, we should match it, or, worst case, pick it up with a link to the AP article.

ALBANY, N.Y. — "Pink slime" just went from a simmer to a boil.

In less than a week this month, the stomach-turning epithet for ammonia-treated ground beef filler suddenly became a potent rallying cry by activists fighting to ban the product from supermarket shelves and school lunch trays. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is set to announce Thursday it will offer schools choice in ground beef purchases in response to requests from districts.

<http://www.dailyjournal.net/view/story/d98d05e6c0c4439792736da05a70e845/US--Food-Pink-Slime-Debate/>

Rita Jane Gabbett  
Executive, Editor, Meatingplace  
[rgabbett@meatingplace.com](mailto:rgabbett@meatingplace.com)  
Office: 312-274-2217  
cell: 847-651-4821  
[www.meatingplace.com](http://www.meatingplace.com)

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**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - OC; [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Thought this would cheer you up  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:07:45 AM

---

Thanks – probably my only laugh of the day! ☺

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:48 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Cc:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** Thought this would cheer you up

[The Fake CNN @TheFakeCNN](#) (122,621 followers)  
Pink Slime named as Gingrich's most likely potential running mate.

(b) (6)  
Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Desk: (b) (6)  
Cell (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Thurston Foods  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:13:26 AM

---

I know , I feel the same way. All they wanted was a little help and we have to say NO.

Well that's the Government for you.

Have a good day and I will see you tomorrow.

Thanks for trying.

---

**From:** (b) (6) FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:11 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Thurston Foods

I hate it when we build an excellent working relationship with the plants and they're always cooperative, and then when they need help with something we have to tell them there is nothing we can do.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Thurston Foods

Ok Doc, Thanks I will let them know.

---

**From:** (b) (6) FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Thurston Foods

FYI. As much as we would like to help some of the plants on the pink slime issue, there is nothing in writing that we can provide them that says they don't use it. They'll have to write something on their own that they can give their customers. They could call askFSIS but I'm sure they'll tell them the same thing.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 5:19 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Thurston Foods



I am not aware of anything in writing that USDA can provide and it certainly not up to the CSI to market their product. I am very familiar with pink slime and do not need the link. The plant should do their own research on how best to address the situation.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:42 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Thurston Foods

After the ABC News story on pink slime last week, I suspect we may get a few inquiries like this from plants that want to assure their customers that they do not use any product that contains it. Am I correct in stating that the plant would have to issue their own statement, or is there something in writing that the USDA could provide?

In case you're not familiar with it, I will forward you the link.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Thurston Foods

Dr (b) (6) Thurston Foods is having lots of negative feedback from all their customers regarding the "Pink Slime" issues that have been in the media.

Would it be feasible for me to write a letter from the USDA stating that they do not use pink slime in their ground beef product which would be supported by their letter of guarantee from the supplier and daily observations of their grinding operation.

They deliver to the school systems here in Connecticut and many other institutions that are looking for something in writing regarding this.

If we were to have a letter from their one and only supplier which is a New Zealand company that states they do not use "Pink Slime" and or any other fillers in their frozen whole muscle beef would be able to provide them with such a document.

Thank-you for your help in this matter.

(b) (6)

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Today  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:53:13 AM

---

Referred to as cold pressed beef produced by proteus. I can forward you information on it. I don't believe it is in production yet, they are still exploring potential customers.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 08:50 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Today

Interesting. You also mentioned another similar "process" for recovering lean, what was that again? Didn't sound great.

(b) (6), Ph.D.  
International Marketing Specialist  
Standardization Division, USDA  
(b) (6) (o)

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:43 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Today

Sounds good. Good luck with pink slime. Fyi- we received an askfsis question last night from cargill exploring claim on retail ground beef "contains no finely textured beef.". We have not responded yet, in clearance.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 08:39 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Today

All right, let's do Friday. See you then.

(b) (6), Ph.D.  
International Marketing Specialist  
Standardization Division, USDA  
(b) (6) (o)

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** Re: Today

Yeah, we are tied up today pretty much too. We are flexible too. Ros and I are here Friday. Either fri and wed or next wed and thurs will work.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 08:22 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Today

I'm flexible, would this afternoon be worthwhile? I could do this Friday but I think that is some of your off days.

Or we could do next Wednesday AND Thursday? Your call.

(b) (6), Ph.D.  
International Marketing Specialist  
Standardization Division, USDA  
(b) (6) (o)

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:19 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** Re: Today

Do you want to reschedule for another day?

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 08:17 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Today

We are running way over, pink slime is dominating our conversations, I'll get there as soon as I can and make a go of it.

(b) (6), Ph.D.  
International Marketing Specialist  
Standardization Division, USDA  
(b) (6) (o)

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 8:41 AM  
**To:** Gwartney, Bucky - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: Today

Sounds good. I am tied up in some meetings too. Tammie and the rest of the staff are here.

Jeff

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 8:39 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** Today

Jeff,

I know its last minute but we have a couple of staff meetings this morning that came up urgent, LFTB and our Commodity Procurement upcoming Industry conference so I need to get those out of

the way and make it over around 9:30, hope that works out okay. See you soon and I have lots of questions!

(b) (6), Ph.D.

International Marketing Specialist

Standardization Division

U.S. Department of Agriculture, AMS

1400 Independence Ave., SW, Rm. 2607-S

Washington DC 20250

(b) (6) (o)

202-720-1112 (f)



**From:** [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Taylor, Kim - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: top items  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:59:40 AM

---

Can you write me up a bullet on the recent developments of Pink SLIME

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:58 AM  
**To:** DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Cc:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: top items

- Content updates included material in support of advisory committee meetings; recall related information.
- Multiple Federal Register notices issuing today (NARA hasn't issued yet).
- Intranet: Uploading and testing additions to acronym dictionary; updating PHHRS pages; updating training guide for content providers. Contractors working on configuration changes needed for software upgrades.

(b) (6)

*Web Manager, Web Services Staff*  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Room 1150-S  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)  
Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 202-690-3903

---

**From:** DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:42 AM  
**To:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; West, Walinda - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Subject:** top items  
**Importance:** High

I may cover for Brian for managers meeting. Please send me (bullet form) your top items.

Thanks

-----  
**Greg DiNapoli**, Deputy Director  
Congressional & Public Affairs

USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Ave., SW (Room 1175-S)

Washington, DC 20250

direct: 202.720.5509

office: 202.720.9113

mobile: (b) (6)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

**From:** [Lavalley, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\)](#) - [RD, Washington, DC](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: TPs on Lean Finely Text Beef  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:34:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

---

Here is what Dr. Hagen is using today

- Lean Finely Textured Beef meets the same rigorous safety standards as all of the products we regulate.
  - We stand behind the mark of federal inspection and what that means: our employees verify the safety of meat and poultry products every day in over 6,000 federally regulated establishments.
  - BPI is one of those meat products that receive the mark of inspection. The meat has been produced in establishments that meet the standards set out in our laws and regulations for safe food production.
  - My role as the Under Secretary for Food Safety is to set the policies of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. Because of our regulatory function, it would be inappropriate for us to endorse or promote a particular product or process. However, when asked, we are on record assuring the American people that this product meets the same food safety standards as all of the meat and poultry products produced in federally regulated establishments.
  - USDA's role is larger than the food safety portfolio. The marketing and nutrition agencies at USDA are responsible for purchasing food for and administering the school lunch program.
  - The government's role in this debate on LFTB has been to remind Americans that this product is produced safely, and to provide school districts with a choice to purchase LFTB.
  - The public outcry about this product has never been about safety, it has been about how LFTB is produced and consumer perceptions. Our food choices can be very personal, and we are fortunate that when we walk into a grocery store, we can choose from a variety of products.
  - Speaking on behalf of the food safety agency at USDA, I hope that we can continue to engage and inform the public on what we do to protect Americans from foodborne illness.
-



**From:** (b) (6) - RD, Washington, DC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:17 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: TPs on Lean Finely Text Beef

Hi everyone,

Checking in—Any TPs the Administrator can use if/when he gets asked about lean finely textured beef aka pink slime? Sorry for the rush, but I do need those by late tomorrow morning. Thanks!

--

(b) (6)  
Rural Utilities Service  
(b) (6)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - RD, Washington, DC; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** RE: TPs on Lean Finely Text Beef

Good morning,

Aaron Lavallee in OC is point person on the Department's talking points on this product. I've CCed him on this email so you can get the correct and complete TPs....

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - RD, Washington, DC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:49 AM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** TPs on Lean Finely Text Beef

Good morning,

(b) (6) from Lapas suggested I get in touch with you. Rural Utilities Service Administrator

Jonathan Adelstein will be traveling to Florida next week and he will be doing two roundtables and talking to lots of press (hopefully!). I have a sinking feeling that someone is going to bring up Lean Finely Textured Beef (aka "pink slime") and I'd like him to have some talking points he can use. Can you shoot something my way?

Thanks so much,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) | Special Assistant  
Rural Utilities Service | Rural Development  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W. | Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (b) (6) | Mobile: (b) (6)  
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"Committed to the future of rural communities"

"Estamos dedicados al futuro de las comunidades rurales"

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: travis paper letter on pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, September 22, 2011 12:24:35 PM

---

Done..

(b) (6)

*Executive Correspondence and*

*Issues Management Staff*

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

(Desk) (b) (6)

(Fax) 202-720-7609

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

*"Do unto others in the style they would prefer to be done unto."*

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2011 10:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: travis paper letter on pink slime

Great; (b) (6) should be preparing the final folder for signature.

Thank you.

René Cardwell, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 1163-South Building  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945

Cell: (202) 503-7113  
Fax: (202) 205-0158

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2011 10:57 AM  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: travis paper letter on pink slime

Hi Rene,

I uploaded the correct version in ECM.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

**(b) (6)** *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1170-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* **(b) (6)** *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* **(b) (6)** [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

*"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"*

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2011 10:40 AM

**To:** **(b) (6)** - FSIS

**Cc:** **(b) (6)** - FSIS

**Subject:** travis paper letter on pink slime

Please check the ECM miscellaneous document named "preapproved language". Looks like it's actually an incoming.

Thank you.

René Cardwell, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 1163-South Building  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945

Cell: (202) 503-7113

Fax: (202) 205-0158

**From:** [Hulsey, Laura - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Trivia on "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:49:39 AM

---

That's a really good article. Thanks.

---

**From:** [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:37 AM  
**To:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Cc:** Butler, Kim - FSIS; [\(b\) \(6\)](#)

**Subject:** Trivia on 'Pink Slime'

This is not a new issue....

Who first called it 'Pink Slime'?

Microbiologist, Gerald Zirnstein, called the processed beef "pink slime" in 2002.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/31/us/31meat.html?pagewanted=all>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:13:44 AM

---

Ask applications?

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:53 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

Sure, why not also the 'Ask' applications? –that would be great, once the text is cleared/approved.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

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e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

(b) (6)

(b) (6) had a great idea...for RIMD to also submit Qs and As for "Ask Karen" and "Ask FSIS" and possibly talking points for the Meat and Poultry Hotline to accompany the fact sheets. That would be very helpful for the Hotline folks who also manage the "Ask Karen" database and we could get them cleared at the same time!

(b) (6)

Ps...you did send me the ammonium hydroxide fact sheet. We are looking at it now.

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

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5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:32 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** OPACE/WSS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

(b) (6) and (b) (6)

1. While the Food Safety Education Staff is certainly the largest contributor to the Fact Sheets section of the web site, this group is not the only contributor. Subject matter experts in OFO, OIA, and OPHS have worked with OPACE staff to produce some of our current fact sheets. We would be happy to add new fact sheets for general audiences on other timely topics.
2. We do have requirements for web content (e.g., compliance with accessibility standards) and we can certainly offer suggestions on good writing for the web (use of descriptive headings, ample white space, etc.) . These suggestions will sound familiar to those who have been working with the Plain Language initiative. However, we don't expect our content contributors to "webify" the documents. Focus on the content and getting that through clearance.

In terms of classification, we will find the best fit under one of the existing headings. We have a large number of categories under Fact Sheets and will not be creating any more. In particular, we do not organize content around the organizational structure because visitors do not search for it in that manner. We can also link to individual fact sheets as appropriate from other areas of the site.

3. I haven't seen the draft, but I would think the ammonium hydroxide issue would be of great interest to our visitors. If you haven't already, you might work with the administrators of the "Ask" applications (Ask Karen and *askFSIS*) to make sure the key points are also included in those knowledge bases. In addition to FSES, you should include the Congressional and Public Affairs Office and the OPACE AA in the clearance chain.

In short, we would be happy to expand our fact sheet offerings. We ask our content providers to furnish WSS a final copy of the document, along with proof of clearance (to the AA level or higher). Content owners are also responsible for periodic review of the content to ensure continued accuracy and relevance.

(b) (6)

*Web Manager*, Web Services Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Room 1150-S

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Phone: 202-720-3698 | Fax: 202-690-3903

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 7:17 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** OPACE/WSS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

(b) (6)



I don't remember seeing a RIMD draft Ammonium hydroxide fact sheet...I it about the "pink slime" issue? We could use a fact sheet on that.

With regard to your questions below, I need to defer to the FSIS Web Services staff (OPACE) for answers. I have copied them on this message.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 3:23 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

**Importance:** High

Hi (b) (6)

Sorry if I confused you on 02-06 re the RIMD draft fact sheet I shared with you - I think I had sent you this previously, but I have been having e-mail troubles.

**Questions:**

- 1.Are you (OPACE) amenable to RIMD posting our hot topic fact sheets (plain language) where OPACE posts other types of Fact Sheets?
- 2.If RIMD can post plain language fact sheets there, do you have requirements for such postings? Formats for Fact Sheets we need to adhere to?
- 3.Would the draft RIMD Fact Sheet on Ammonium hydroxide, shared with you by me, be deemed (by you) suitable for posting there?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Yes (perhaps a new category (RIMD Fact Sheets) would need to  
[REDACTED] the Fact Sheet site?), Yes, and I need your feedback on the draft (but I think  
[REDACTED] yes).

[REDACTED] can get [REDACTED] & RIMD chains of command and the  
Under [REDACTED] ks very much.

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Sample of pink slime questions from Ask Karen  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:17:07 AM

---

Just talked to Diane

And she suggested if possible going back to beginning of the week, so from Monday on.

(though I realize they just started couple days ago..)

Right – she did confirm they’d like calls; chats; AskKaren webmail and other webmails

(b) (6) you may be gone at this time, but if you do get this e-mail on time:

Is it possible to get such a count on webmails going back to start of week?

Thanks

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:14 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Sample of pink slime questions from Ask Karen

We’ve only had 8 calls since for the Hotline since yesterday. Lots of emails. I don’t know

the chat and webmail. To get webmail I will have to manually count them since Marianne is not available for the rest of the day.

I can start gathering those numbers but In order to do that I have to get off the line.

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:02 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Sample of pink slime questions from Ask Karen

(b) (6)

Would you be able to provide numbers on 'pinks slime' for Brian?

If possible, please let me know what these are for both Hotline calls as well as chats—

Not sure you can count the webmail numbers??

He asked what for these so they can track a trending number.

Thanks

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff  
Meat and Poultry Hotline  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:49 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS

**Subject:** Sample of pink slime questions from Ask Karen

<< File: Pink Slime.March 2012.docx >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Sample of pink slime questions from Ask Karen  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:25:45 AM

---

If you want to , go ahead and send them to all 3 of us together,

Thanks (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:25 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Sample of pink slime questions from Ask Karen

Okay, will forward when done. Should I send them to you and Diane and then you forward to Brian?

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Sample of pink slime questions from Ask Karen

I guess sometime today Tina

I don't think it's a huge rush...

Thanks

(b) (6)

---

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:19 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Sample of pink slime questions from Ask Karen

Do you want them right away or can I work on them during my break (11-12) depending on the urgency. I just can't do it while taking calls, too confusing, and I make mistakes when working with numbers if I can't concentrate.

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/F SIS Food Safety Education Staff

2L-248D

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:02 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Sample of pink slime questions from Ask Karen

(b) (6)

Would you be able to provide numbers on 'pinks slime' for Brian?

If possible, please let me know what these are for both Hotline calls as well as chats—

Not sure you can count the webmail numbers??

He asked what for these so they can track a trending number.

Thanks

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:49 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS

**Subject:** Sample of pink slime questions from Ask Karen

<< File: Pink Slime.March 2012.docx >>



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Scientist who coined Pink Slime reluctant whistleblower | Reuters  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:04:08 PM

---

Sounds like (b) (6) and as we all suspected he is unemployed. He didn't last long in industry.

(b) (6) DVM  
Senior Equivalence Officer  
IES, OIA, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 4864 South Bldg, Mailstop 3729  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
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(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 12:53 PM  
**To:** FSIS - OIA/IES; FSIS - OIA/IAS  
**Subject:** Scientist who coined Pink Slime reluctant whistleblower | Reuters

This article is about Gerald Zirntein:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/25/us-food-slime-scientist-idUSBRE82N0AG20120325>

**From:** [Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Senate Ag Minority Briefing  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:56:59 PM

---

Nothing new on the operations side

---

**From:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:29 AM  
**To:** Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Senate Ag Minority Briefing

OK, he said he wanted to know if there's anything new on them.

Christopher Gould  
Congressional & Public Affairs Office  
USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service  
202-690-4546  
202-365-0186 (cell)

---

**From:** Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:25 AM  
**To:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Senate Ag Minority Briefing

Actually he knows this topic well. They are also doing other stec sampling.

---

**From:** Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:59 AM  
**To:** Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Senate Ag Minority Briefing

Ken:

Phil is going to need to be on a multi-agency conference call with Senate Ag Committee minority staff later on today, and I wanted to make sure he's well prepared if Gerald Zirnstein or Carl Custer come up. We don't have any talkers here at CPAO on that aspect; are there any words of wisdom you might be able to share? It's OK if you want to talk with Phil directly about it, just let me know. Quick background and a link to the story below.

**Gerald Zirnstein** who, in an USDA memo, first coined the term "pink slime" and is now coming forward to say he won't buy it. "It's economic fraud," he told ABC News. "It's not fresh ground beef. ... It's a cheap substitute being added in." Zirnstein and his fellow USDA scientist, **Carl Custer**, both warned against using what the industry calls "lean finely

textured beef,” widely known now as “pink slime,” but their government bosses overruled them.

Story here:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

Thanks –

Christopher Gould

Congressional & Public Affairs Office

USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service

202-690-4546 (desk)

202-365-0186 (cell)

202-720-5704 (fax)

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often   **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature   **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Bourn, Sylvia - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Setting the Record Straight on Beef  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:59:29 PM

---

Oh My Gosh! Can't wait to see this!

---

**From:** Bourn, Sylvia - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:35 AM  
**To:** Wilkins, Stephanie - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Setting the Record Straight on Beef

Thank you, Stephanie. Just this morning an FSES customer shared the volume of calls currently being received around the issue of "pink slime".

*Sylvia*

Sylvia Bourn  
Chief, OEDB-CFL-OOEET-FSIS-USDA

---

**From:** Wilkins, Stephanie - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:27 PM  
**To:** Bourn, Sylvia - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Setting the Record Straight on Beef

Hi Everyone,

Please see below. Dr. Hagen addresses the issue of "Pink Slime" in beef.

*Stephanie J. Wilkins*

Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Outreach, Employee Education and Training  
14th & Independence Ave. SW, Rm. 2936, So. Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20250  
202-205-2954 (office)  
(b) (6) (Blackberry)  
202-690-2040 (fax)  
[stephanie.wilkins@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.wilkins@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:17 PM  
**To:** FSIS - FSIS Management Council  
**Cc:** FSIS - OPACE/Managers

**Subject:** FW: Setting the Record Straight on Beef

I wanted to be sure that you are aware of a blog that was pushed out by OC this morning authored by Dr. Hagen. Please click on the link below.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)



Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** USDA Office of Communications [mailto:[usda@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:usda@public.govdelivery.com)]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:03 PM

**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS

**Subject:** Setting the Record Straight on Beef

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

You are subscribed to USDA Blog for USDA Office of Communications.

**[Setting the Record Straight on Beef](#)**

*03/22/2012 11:42 AM EDT*

As the head of USDA's public health agency, I am responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe for American families. I approach this role not only as a food safety expert and a physician, but also as a mother. And I want to address the national [...]



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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Seven Million Pounds of "Pink Slime" Beef Destined for National School Lunch Program |  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:02:38 AM

---

Thanks. This has been on the national evening news the last two nights with them interviewing the two former USDA workers mentioned in the article.

(b) (6)  
Supervisory Investigator  
USDA FSIS OPEER CID  
700 W. Capitol, Suite 4317  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: 501-324-6901  
e.mail: (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:43 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OPEER/CID/Southeastern Region  
**Subject:** FW: Seven Million Pounds of "Pink Slime" Beef Destined for National School Lunch Program |

FYI- read the full story and then the comments below it.

(b) (6)  
Senior Investigator  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER, CID  
Atlanta Federal Center  
100 Alabama Street  
1924 Bldg., Suite 3R95  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Office: (b) (6)  
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Fax: (404) 562-5930

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"In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Martin Luther King Jr.



---

Personal message:  
What???

## **Seven Million Pounds of “Pink Slime” Beef Destined for National School Lunch Program | Healthy Living - Yahoo! Shine**



<http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-slime-8221-beef-180500764.html>

McDonald's and Taco Bell have banned it, but now the USDA is picking up 7 million tons of beef containing ammonium hydroxide-treated ground connective tissue and meat scraps and serving it up to America's school kids. If you thought cafeteria food was gross before....

[\*\*Read the full story\*\*](#)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Seven Million Pounds of "Pink Slime" Beef Destined for National School Lunch Program |  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:36:28 AM

---

Looks as though OFO approved its use which is news to me. We can discuss when the results are in.  
Thanks

-----  
Sent using BlackBerry

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 09:26 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Seven Million Pounds of "Pink Slime" Beef Destined for National School Lunch Program |

Good job. If it comes back pos for ammonia could we say that the product is adulterated because of it (although no actionable limit) but ammonia may not be a naturally occurring or used additive (probably to prolong shelf life, etc) making the product inferior, etc??

(b) (6)

Senior Investigator

USDA, FSIS, OPEER, CID

Atlanta Federal Center

100 Alabama Street

1924 Bldg., Suite 3R95

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

**Office:** (b) (6)

**BB:** (b) (6)

**Fax:** (b) (6)

Notice: "This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately."

"In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Martin Luther King Jr.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Seven Million Pounds of "Pink Slime" Beef Destined for National School Lunch Program |

I have 10k lbs of Grnd Bf on hold at a FCI for misbranding due to added water and strong ammonia odor. I submitted a sample to eastern lab for ammonia content and added water. Test results show 18 per cent added water, ammonia test pending. Unfortunately there is no action level for

ammonia. Connection?

Sent using BlackBerry

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 07:42 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OPEER/CID/Southeastern Region  
**Subject:** FW: Seven Million Pounds of "Pink Slime" Beef Destined for National School Lunch Program |

FYI- read the full story and then the comments below it.

(b) (6)

Senior Investigator

USDA, FSIS, OPEER, CID

Atlanta Federal Center

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"In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Martin Luther King Jr.



---

Personal message:  
What???

**[Seven Million Pounds of "Pink Slime" Beef  
Destined for National School Lunch Program |  
Healthy Living - Yahoo! Shine](http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-healthy-living-yahoo-shine)**

[http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-](http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-healthy-living-yahoo-shine)



[slime-8221-beef-180500764.html](#)

McDonald's and Taco Bell have banned it, but now the USDA is picking up 7 million tons of beef containing ammonium hydroxide-treated ground connective tissue and meat scraps and serving it up to America's school kids. If you thought cafeteria food was gross before....

[Read the full story](#)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Seven Million Pounds of "Pink Slime" Beef Destined for National School Lunch Program | Healthy Living - Yahoo! Shine  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:20:43 AM

---

It is a bit frustrating, but not new...

(b) (6), DVM  
Frontline Supervisor  
San Francisco, CA  
Circuit 0519  
(b) (6) BBY  
(b) (6) Ofc  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 7:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Seven Million Pounds of "Pink Slime" Beef Destined for National School Lunch Program | Healthy Living - Yahoo! Shine

The thing that gets me is why do we learn about products like this through the news media and not from the agency?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 7:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Seven Million Pounds of "Pink Slime" Beef Destined for National School Lunch Program | Healthy Living - Yahoo! Shine

Absolutely; it shouldn't be eligible for the Mark - ought to be treated the same as lungs.

(b) (6), DVM  
Frontline Supervisor  
San Francisco, CA  
Circuit 0519  
(b) (6) BBY  
(b) (6) Ofc  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 7:14 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Seven Million Pounds of "Pink Slime" Beef Destined for National School Lunch Program | Healthy Living - Yahoo! Shine

Sad knowing a product like this carries the mark of inspection.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 7:07 AM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: RE: Seven Million Pounds of "Pink Slime" Beef Destined for National School Lunch Program | Healthy Living - Yahoo! Shine

Disgusting

(b) (6), DVM  
Frontline Supervisor  
San Francisco, CA  
Circuit 0519

(b) (6) BBY  
(b) (6) Ofc  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS

Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 8:11 AM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS

Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: Seven Million Pounds of "Pink Slime" Beef Destined for National School Lunch Program | Healthy Living - Yahoo! Shine

Tasty!

<http://shine.yahoo.com/healthy-living/seven-million-tons-8220-pink-slime-8221-beef-180500764.html>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: short list of researchable questions  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:46:25 PM

---

(b) (6) are you asking about 'validation of messages?'.

Like questions on 'halal' or 'pink slime' ??

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:45 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: short list of researchable questions

What does this mean? Questions we've gotten via the hotline for which we had to research the answers?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: short list of researchable questions

Everyone, please see below Kathy's inquiry

And respond,

Thank you.

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:38 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** short list of researchable questions

Hi (b) (6)

Did you ever come up with a list of researchable questions from the Hotline staff? I have 3 or 4, but did the Hotline have any?

Bob asked me about it this morning.

Thanks!

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 21-12 Randomly Selecting Product to be Sampled Under the Beef Manufacturing Trimmings (MT50) Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 4:33:46 PM

---

Hope everybody has cardboard

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 2:43 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 21-12 Randomly Selecting Product to be Sampled Under the Beef Manufacturing Trimmings (MT50) Program

Pre-Pink Slime testing. Hope they have post-pink slime as well. See if it really works.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector-Relief

Plover, WI Circuit 45-21 (Golden Sand)

N4419 Clear Lake Road

Medford, WI 54451-8955

(b) (6)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 2:29 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)

(b) (6)

**Subject:** Signed copy of FSIS Notice 21-12 Randomly Selecting Product to be Sampled Under the Beef Manufacturing Trimmings (MT50) Program



<< File: 21-12.pdf >> << File: FSIS Notice 21-12 Randomly Selecting Product to be Sampled Under the Beef Manufacturing Trimmings MT50 Sampling Program.doc >>

(b) (6)

*Program Analyst*

*Policy Issuances Division, OPPD, FSIS*

*Room 6073-S*

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 21-12 Randomly Selecting Product to be Sampled Under the Beef Manufacturing Trimmings (MT50) Program  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:10:30 AM

---

The ammonia is related to pink slime. But I don't think the notice is because of that.

(b) (6), DVM, MPH

SPHV Bradenville Mini-circuit, Pittsburgh circuit

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 6:26 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 21-12 Randomly Selecting Product to be Sampled Under the Beef Manufacturing Trimmings (MT50) Program

Is this **Pink Slime**?

(b) (6)

(b) (6), Relief CSI

Est. 09573

Pittsburgh Circuit

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:45:01 AM

---

It's just the timing of it all.... I guess I need to put some of my conspiracy theories in the background... Too much "1984" floating around in my head.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:43 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program

Noticed that too.. though I don't know if the "lean finely textured ground beef" qualifies.....

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:39 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program

Interesting that is Notice came out shortly after all the hubbub about "Pink" slime...

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:49:13 AM

---

It's probably a whole lot more than that.. a lot of stores are using tubes for everything but their 85/15, which is usually bench trim. The tubes from the processing plant probably all have finely textured beef in them as filler.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program

Take a look at this;

These are among the stores that **sell store-ground meat with pink slime**, according to [The Daily:](#)

- **Target**
- **BJ's**
- **Hy-Vee**
- **Safeway**
- **Walmart**
- **Albertsons**
- **Stop & Shop**
- **Zaycon Foods**

(b) (6)

Compliance Investigator

USDA,FSIS,OPEER,CID

Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building

125 So. State, Room 4207

Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1101

(b) (6) Office [redacted]

(b) (6) Cell [redacted]

801-524-5216 Fax [redacted]

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:52:56 AM

---

I am still not convinced they are a “retailer” yet..damn too fishy for me...

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program

If you look at the number of cities they are “delivering” too, I think you could consider them a pretty big retailer... especially considering they’re not bothered with the overhead of maintaining all of those stores and warehouses.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:50 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program

Lol..I know that. I meant look at one of the companies that sells it...Zaycon Foods, the sell from the back of the delivery truck company we have yet to see....just thought it was interesting they were listed with the big retailers...

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program

All the more reason why I grow my own steer every year. There ain’t no pink slime in my ground beef.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program

Take a look at this;

These are among the stores that **sell store-ground meat with pink slime**, according to [The Daily:](#)

- **Target**
- **BJ's**
- **Hy-Vee**
- **Safeway**
- **Walmart**
- **Albertsons**
- **Stop & Shop**
- **Zaycon Foods**

(b) (6)

Compliance Investigator

USDA,FSIS,OPEER,CID

Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building

125 So. State, Room 4207

Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1101

(b) (6) Office

(b) (6) Cell

801-524-5216 Fax

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:39 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program

Interesting that is Notice came out shortly after all the hubbub about "Pink" slime...

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:30 AM

**To:** (b) (6)

(b) (6) - FSIS; FSIS - All State Inspectors; FSIS - FO/OAA; FSIS - Office of Field Operations; FSIS - Office of Policy, Program & Development; FSIS - OPEER/CID; FSIS - OPEER/FSAB/Omaha; FSIS - OPEER/ICAD; FSIS - Weekly Report Submissions; (b) (6),

(b) (6)




- FSIS

**Subject:** Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program

<< File: 22-12.pdf >> << File: FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program.doc >>

(b) (6)

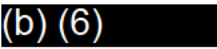


*Program Analyst*

*Policy Issuances Division, OPPD, FSIS*

*Room 6073-S*

(b) (6)





**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:01:55 AM

---

I did read it But I didn't see anything about ink slime unless it is on the form where you randomly pick what you are testing

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program

I don't have time to read this cause it will put me over the 8 hour limit but I know you guys did and I wanted to know if they mentioned how much of the "pink slime" was to be included in the sample???

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:30 AM  
**Subject:** Signed copy of FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program

<< File: 22-12.pdf >> << File: FSIS Notice 22-12 Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program.doc >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: signing off  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:05:21 PM

---

Any pink slime calls today (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** signing off

Have a good weekend everybody

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/F SIS Food Safety Education Staff

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, Maryland 20705

Office (b) (6)

Fax (301) 504-2092

e-mail (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:46:12 AM

---

Interesting, thank you (b) (6)

(b) (6)

*USDA, FSIS, OFO*

*Livingston Frontline Supervisor*

*Alameda District*

*P.O. Box 3152*

*Turlock, CA 95381*

*Phone:* (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:36 AM  
**To:** FSIS - FO/DO15/Front Line Supervisors  
**Cc:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS; Reeder, Robert - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Slime

FYI, interesting article.

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

BB# (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:23 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) FSIS  
**Subject:** Slime

*This aired last night on ABC channel 4 in SLC. They even implicated Stouffers.*

[http://www.abc4.com/content/news/top\\_stories/story/Pink-Slime-The-Inside-Story/vm2n3PWs60uax36dzhsNGQ.csp](http://www.abc4.com/content/news/top_stories/story/Pink-Slime-The-Inside-Story/vm2n3PWs60uax36dzhsNGQ.csp)

(b) (6)

*Relief CSI*

*SLC Circuit*

(b) (6)

*To achieve, you need thought. You have to know what you are doing and that's real power.*

*Ayn Rand*

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**To:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: So.....  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 5:01:56 PM

---

I think USDA cares a lot about the cattlemen.

I emailed (b) (6) yesterday to see how pink slime was going and he said, "BRUTAL."

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 4:50 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** So.....

.....what do you make of all this BPI media circus?

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460

[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: soylent pink  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 2:20:41 PM

---

Media sucks and we're in the eye of the S@\$& storm.

(b) (6)  
(O) (b) (6)  
(M) (b) (6)

On Mar 8, 2012, at 2:09 PM, "Lang, Brian - FSIS" <(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov> wrote:

Pink slime- that one's old hat.

Dog food and cooking oil- yesterday's news.

Soylent pink is a new one though, and remarkably creative at that.

I guess your desinewers must all be broken too, since BLBT is apparently composed of connective tissue.

Ain't the media great?

Are we headed for another s\*\*\* storm?

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Spanish Inquiries on Ammonia Hydroxide  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:35:14 AM

---

Did you get any response (b) (6) from Bryce?

Thanks

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Spanish Inquiries on Ammonia Hydroxide

Hello (b) (6)

Currently we are referring all Hotline English emails related ammonia hydroxide ("pink slime") to ECIMS, but we would to know if you have a suggestion for Spanish emails we receive on this topic.

Regards,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/ FSES

Room 2L244-C

5601 Sunnyside Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6) (b) (6) Fax: 301-504-2092

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Ask a food safety question in Spanish: [PregunteleKaren.gov](http://PregunteleKaren.gov)

Siguenos por *Twitter*! [http://twitter.com/USDAFoodSafe\\_es](http://twitter.com/USDAFoodSafe_es)

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En\\_Espanol/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En_Espanol/index.asp)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Spanish Inquiries on Ammonia Hydroxide  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:53:43 PM

---

Hi (b) (6)

In terms of messaging, I can send you language CPAO received from OC, given that this is not simply an FSIS issue. We are basing our responses to these e-mails on the OC language. I'll forward it to you now.

Thanks,

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Spanish Inquiries on Ammonia Hydroxide

Hello (b) (6)

Currently we are referring all Hotline English emails related ammonia hydroxide ("pink slime") to ECIMS, but we would to know if you have a suggestion for Spanish emails we receive on this topic.

Regards,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/ FSES

Room 2L244-C

5601 Sunnyside Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6) (b) (6) Fax: 301-504-2092

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Ask a food safety question in Spanish: [PregunteleKaren.gov](http://PregunteleKaren.gov)

Siguenos por *Twitter*! [http://twitter.com/USDAFoodSafe\\_es](http://twitter.com/USDAFoodSafe_es)

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En\\_Espanol/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En_Espanol/index.asp)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Standard Text for Chat inquiries : beef trimmings treated with ammonium hydroxide  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:19:57 AM

---

Sounds good to me (b) (6) —

Though it would nice to still include: ***“I understand your concern about the labeling of products that contain Ammonium Hydroxide”***

At the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

Diane or (b) (6) please comment further if you’d like At the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Standard Text for Chat inquiries : beef trimmings treated with ammonium hydroxide

What do you think of this to add to Ask Karen Standard Text for chat (see below)?

(I combined Brian’s statement and Diane’s, modifying Diane’s for chat service)

“All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA

has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.

We have a record of your concern in our chat database. The Agency periodically reviews our database and they will see your concern that you have registered.”

(b) (6) will translate for Preguntele a Karen.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:32 AM  
**To:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Calls

Thank you Diane

This is very helpful to have for this and future ‘challenging’ calls

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Van, Diane - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:30 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Tuverson, Robert - FSIS

**Subject:** Pink Slime Calls

Hotline Staff,

When you get an irate caller who is complaining that USDA should require labeling on products containing Ammonium Hydroxide (pink slime), here is a response you can give. This will very often diffuse an irate caller. All they really want is to be heard and register their complaint. If they think they are being heard they will calm down almost immediately. You can use this style of response for other irate callers as well. Always tell them (and it's true) that we are recording their concern. You do not have to use this wording verbatim:

"I understand your concern about the labeling of products that contain Ammonium Hydroxide. We record each call in our database and I have entered your concerns. The Agency periodically reviews our database and they will see your concern that you have registered."

Diane Van

Deputy Director, Food Safety Education Staff

Office of Public Affairs & Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service

5601 Sunnyside Ave., 2-L292

Beltsville, MD 20705

301-344-4777 Phone

301-504-0203 Fax

202-306-3857 Blackberry

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Statement for Hotline callers interested in ammoniated beef product used in ground beef  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:23:17 AM

---

I know, I still don't understand why. Is the use of this ammonia a "marketing" process?

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:18 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Statement for Hotline callers interested in ammoniated beef product used in ground beef

Wow...I never would have guessed AMS....

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Statement for Hotline callers interested in ammoniated beef product used in ground beef

Hi (b) (6)

Yes, AMS. At least that's what Cathy Cochran said (CPA is forwarding their questions to AMS) during our FS.gov meeting yesterday. Brian Mabry said the same to Diane a few

days ago. Diane has asked Brian for a contact in AMS to refer callers but he hasn't got back with us yet.

(b) (6) left him a message last evening. I'm doubtful at this point. I wonder if their contact is only for media calls and not consumers.

I hope the buzz with the “pink slime” has died down.

(b) (6) RD RN

## Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2L-248D

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](https://fsis.usda.gov)

From: (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:32 AM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)  
- Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) -  
FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Statement for Hotline callers interested in ammoniated beef product used in ground beef

## AMS?

(b) (6)

## Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

From: (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:39 PM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps  
- FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Statement for Hotline callers interested in ammoniated beef product used in ground beef

Hi everyone,

I know it's quite challenging when getting a 'barrage' of furious and angry calls.

I spoke with Diane and we're now trying to get some AMS contacts that we should be able to refer these questions—most likely, that's where they will have to go.

Diane, ..please chime in if you'd like

.

Thank you all for you patience.

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:02 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Statement for Hotline callers interested in ammoniated beef product used in ground beef

Hi (b) (6)

I will be honest that those talking points are not helping. We have had 8 calls today so far and these consumers are mad!

Consumers want to know:

- If it's labeled and if not, why not?





e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 11:42 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** Statement for Hotline callers interested in ammoniated beef product used in ground beef

The statement below can verbally be distributed to those calling the Hotline regarding the ammoniated beef product that has been the topic of recent news stories. Please note the "verbal" part of that! Carol isn't stoked about a particular phrase contained in the statement, so she doesn't want it emailed around. Thanks!

"USDA is focused on reducing foodborne illness and ensuring that Americans have safe food to eat. Additionally, food served to our nation's schoolchildren must meet the highest standards for food safety and is subject to stringent testing before being allowed to enter schools. And that includes the beef product that has been the focus of recent news stories. Several government agencies – including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture – have studied thoroughly the use of ammonia hydroxide, which is different than household ammonia, and found that it is safe to use in foods and is effective in reducing foodborne pathogens, or bacteria that can be present in meats and make people ill. Ammonia hydroxide is used as a treatment during the production process, and it is chemically altered when infused into meat, leaving no measurable residue. Therefore, it does not pose a threat to humans. Given that it is harmless, and that it reduces the possibility of people getting ill from the beef they are consuming, the use of ammonia hydroxide is considered safe and suitable as part of the company's production process."

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

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Cell: (202) 695-9950

[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** [Hagen, Elisabeth](#)  
**To:** (b) (6); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [DeJong, Justin](#); [Ronholm, Brian](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron](#); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:26:57 PM

---

I am fine with either dirk's or (b) (6) versions.

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 04:24 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; DeJong, Justin; Hagen, Elisabeth; Ronholm, Brian; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight

How about?

"All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and other federal food and nutrition assistance programs, including all product supplied by Beef products, Incorporated (BPI), must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations. USDA would not allow products into commerce or especially into schools if we believed it was unsafe. "

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:17 PM  
**To:** (b) (6); DeJong, Justin; Hagen, Elisabeth; Ronholm, Brian; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight

I spoke with the Seattle reporter, and she needed a quote for her story. She understands that we are focused on ensuring that the product is safe to consume (our conversation went quite well). Her piece will be one minute long (not very long), so our response also should be short in order to improve the chances of our message being incorporated into her story. Her deadline is near, however. Please review the draft statement below. This information was pulled from quotes we previously provided to Gannett reporter Phil Brasher. She said she needs our statement within the next hour. Thank you

"All USDA beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and other federal food and nutrition assistance programs must meet very high food safety standards, which include stringent pathogen testing. Beef supplied by Beef Products, Incorporated for the school lunch program is not exempt from USDA's strict pathogen testing requirements.

Additionally, USDA has a zero tolerance for *Salmonella* and *E. coli* O157:H7 in all beef purchases for the NSLP, which includes testing both the raw materials and the finished product.”

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); (b) (6); [DeJong, Justin](#); [Hagen, Elisabeth](#); [Ronholm, Brian](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron](#); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:19:16 PM

---

I don't have any objection to the quote.

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:31:40 PM

---

FYI...Brian

<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/sideshow/mcdonald-confirms-no-longer-using-pink-slime-chemicals-171209662.html>

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
NOTE NEW DIRECT PHONE 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:31 PM  
**To:** DeJong, Justin; (b) (6) Hagen, Elisabeth; Ronholm, Brian; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight

The version below incorporates Justin's feedback, working from the version Anne provided. Also, I spoke with the reporter off-the-record for a while, which I think will help her craft a story that better represents the issue. She needs a quote to include in her piece from us, which I told her would focus on food safety, so she could craft her story around that.

One other change of note – in turning the last sentence into a positive, I also thought we could strengthen the language to show that we have confidence that this product is safe, instead of simply a belief.

Here's the revised version:

“All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and other federal food and nutrition assistance programs, including all product supplied by Beef products, Incorporated (BPI), must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations. USDA would only allow products into commerce or especially into schools that we have confidence are safe.”

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
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<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** DeJong, Justin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:25 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; (b) (6) Hagen, Elisabeth; Ronholm, Brian; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Lavalley, Aaron; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight

First and foremost, can we get by only doing background? If we must, Can we flip negative aspects of quote (would not) into positive (will only)...

**From:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime"  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:42:55 PM

---

Thx

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 04:41 PM  
**To:** Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Subject:** FW: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime"

FYI – this is the statement we’re planning on sending out in about 10 minutes. It touches on your lane (you know, we had to bring the kids into it...), so I wanted to make sure you got a heads up in case you saw the story tomorrow.

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
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[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:36 PM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron; (b) (6) DeJong, Justin; Hagen, Elisabeth; Ronholm, Brian; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight

Plan on sending the statement below in 15 minutes unless there are any objections. Thank you, all, for your feedback and prompt review!

“All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations. USDA would only allow products into commerce or especially into schools that we have confidence are safe.”

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education



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<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:34 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; DeJong, Justin; Hagen, Elisabeth; Ronholm, Brian; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight

I think we should take BPI – the story will mention them and clearly this is in reference to that.

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:32 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; DeJong, Justin; Hagen, Elisabeth; Ronholm, Brian; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight

I like!

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:31 PM  
**To:** DeJong, Justin; (b) (6) Hagen, Elisabeth; Ronholm, Brian; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight

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One other change of note – in turning the last sentence into a positive, I also thought we could strengthen the language to show that we have confidence that this product is safe, instead of simply a belief.

Here's the revised version:

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products, Incorporated (BPI), must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations. USDA would only allow products into commerce or especially into schools that we have confidence are safe.”

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
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<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** [DeJong, Justin](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); (b) (6); [Hagen, Elisabeth](#); [Ronholm, Brian](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron](#); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:32:02 PM

---

Could/should we take bpi out of statement? Seems like it could be just as effective wo.

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 04:30 PM  
**To:** DeJong, Justin; (b) (6); Hagen, Elisabeth; Ronholm, Brian; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight

The version below incorporates Justin's feedback, working from the version Anne provided. Also, I spoke with the reporter off-the-record for a while, which I think will help her craft a story that better represents the issue. She needs a quote to include in her piece from us, which I told her would focus on food safety, so she could craft her story around that.

One other change of note – in turning the last sentence into a positive, I also thought we could strengthen the language to show that we have confidence that this product is safe, instead of simply a belief.

Here's the revised version:

“All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and other federal food and nutrition assistance programs, including all product supplied by Beef products, Incorporated (BPI), must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations. USDA would only allow products into commerce or especially into schools that we have confidence are safe.”

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** [DeJong, Justin](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron](#); (b) (6) [Hagen, Elisabeth](#); [Ronholm, Brian](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:14:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

Beautiful. Thank you sir.

**Justin DeJong**

Deputy Director, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.690.0548  
USDA Cell: 202.251.3309  
[justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov](mailto:justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov)  
<http://www.usda.gov>

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---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:14 PM  
**To:** DeJong, Justin; Lavallee, Aaron; (b) (6) [Hagen, Elisabeth](#); [Ronholm, Brian](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight

Yes. I sent the reporter the statement and gave the reporter a backgrounder on this issue before drafting our statement. I informed the reporter when I provided her the backgrounder that our statement would be focused on food safety, which she was fine with.

---

**From:** DeJong, Justin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 05:00 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Lavallee, Aaron; (b) (6) [Hagen, Elisabeth](#); [Ronholm, Brian](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight

Thank you. Guessing you provided, but making sure they received background?

**Justin DeJong**

Deputy Director, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.690.0548  
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<http://www.usda.gov>

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---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:36 PM

**To:** Lavallee, Aaron; (b) (6) DeJong, Justin; Hagen, Elisabeth; Ronholm, Brian; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS

**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: Statement to be issued to Seattle reporter regarding "pink slime" - deadline: 6:15 p.m. tonight

Plan on sending the statement below in 15 minutes unless there are any objections. Thank you, all, for your feedback and prompt review!

“All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations. USDA would only allow products into commerce or especially into schools that we have confidence are safe.”

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

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Cell: (202) 695-9950

[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Status Report 2-7-12.xlsx  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 9:16:52 AM

---

If they are not a part of the report, then I won't be able to make the total reflect that. I believe (b) (6) works on another report, is it on that one?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 9:12 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Status Report 2-7-12.xlsx

Hi (b) (6)

Only one change. Please change the total of letters to 13. I have 12 pink slime letters I am working on.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

*"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 9:03 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Status Report 2-7-12.xlsx

Please ensure updates has been captured. Thanks

```
-7-12.x|sx >>
```

**From:** (b) (6) - C - APHIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Still on the Phone  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:29:00 AM

---

Lol- just curious about some farm meat rules.

(b) (6)  
Smuggling Interdiction & Trade Compliance Officer Ohio

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection & Quarantine  
Tel (b) (6)  
Fax 614-322-4713

"This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately."

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:28 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - APHIS  
**Subject:** Re: Still on the Phone

You mean you wouldn't prefer some good ol Pink Slime?

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Device.....

(b) (6), Investigator  
U.S. Dept of Agriculture - FSIS  
Office of Program Evaluation,  
Enforcement and Review  
Compliance & Investigations Division  
155 E. Columbus Street  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
(b) (6) Office  
(b) (6) Blackberry  
614-833-9901 Fax  
email: s(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) - APHIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 07:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Still on the Phone

Hmm, interesting. Remind me to pick your brain about farm raised meats!



(b) (6)

Smuggling Interdiction & Trade Compliance Officer Ohio

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service Plant Protection & Quarantine Tel 614-322-4714 Fax 614-322-4713

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS

Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:26 AM

To: (b) (6) APHIS

Subject: Re: Still on the Phone

Ha, nice. Don't know location yet, trying to figure that out?

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Device.....

(b) (6), Investigator  
U.S. Dept of Agriculture - FSIS  
Office of Program Evaluation,  
Enforcement and Review  
Compliance & Investigations Division  
155 E. Columbus Street  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
(b) (6) Office  
(b) (6) Blackberry  
614-833-9901 Fax  
email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (6) APHIS

Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 07:24 AM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS

Subject: RE: Still on the Phone

Vundebar! Where you getting your sample?

(b) (6)

Smuggling Interdiction & Trade Compliance Officer Ohio

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service Plant Protection & Quarantine Tel 614-322-4714 Fax 614-322-4713

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may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately."

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:20 AM  
To: (b) (6) - APHIS  
Subject: Re: Still on the Phone

Ok

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Device.....

(b) (6), Investigator  
U.S. Dept of Agriculture - FSIS  
Office of Program Evaluation,  
Enforcement and Review  
Compliance & Investigations Division  
155 E. Columbus Street  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
(b) (6) Office  
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614-833-9901 Fax  
email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (6) APHIS  
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 07:19 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Still on the Phone

That sounds good- could u meet me at the dealer tomorrow about 10? The address is 12895 worthington sw, pataskala

(b) (6)  
Smuggling Interdiction & Trade Compliance Officer Ohio

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service Plant Protection & Quarantine Tel 614-322-4714 Fax 614-322-4713

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:56 AM  
To: (b) (6) APHIS

Subject: Re: Still on the Phone

Tomorrow works better for me, I'm taking a sample today.

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Device.....

(b) (6), Investigator  
U.S. Dept of Agriculture - FSIS  
Office of Program Evaluation,  
Enforcement and Review  
Compliance & Investigations Division  
155 E. Columbus Street  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
(b) (6) Office  
(b) (6) Blackberry  
614-833-9901 Fax  
email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (6) - APHIS  
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 06:28 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Still on the Phone

I could go today, or tomorrow if you want- tomorrow I have a car appointment in Pataskala at 10- we could go from there if you're interested. Just let me know.

(b) (6)  
Smuggling Interdiction & Trade Compliance Officer Ohio

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service Plant Protection & Quarantine Tel 614-322-4714 Fax 614-322-4713

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-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:20 AM  
To: (b) (6) - APHIS  
Subject: Re: Still on the Phone

No worries, hope you feel better soon.

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Device.....

(b) (6), Investigator  
U.S. Dept of Agriculture - FSIS  
Office of Program Evaluation,

Enforcement and Review  
Compliance & Investigations Division  
155 E. Columbus Street  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
(b) (6) Office  
(b) (6) Blackberry  
614-833-9901 Fax  
email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (6) APHIS  
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 03:46 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Re: Still on the Phone

Sorry, out sick today.

(b) (6)  
USDA APHIS PPQ SITC  
Reynoldsburg, OH  
(b) (6)

----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 02:47 PM  
To: (b) (6) - APHIS  
Subject: Re: Still on the Phone

You mean the Health thing?

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Device.....

(b) (6), Investigator  
U.S. Dept of Agriculture - FSIS  
Office of Program Evaluation,  
Enforcement and Review  
Compliance & Investigations Division  
155 E. Columbus Street  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
(b) (6) Office  
(b) (6) Blackberry  
614-833-9901 Fax  
email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (6) - APHIS  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 02:43 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Re: Still on the Phone

Let's go to that conference tomorrow- what ya think??

(b) (6)  
USDA APHIS PPO SITC  
Reynoldsburg, OH  
(b) (6)

----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 02:35 PM  
To: (b) (6) - APHIS  
Subject: Still on the Phone

Sorry, but you will probably be long gone before I am off of the phone - this is soooooo much fun!!  
lol Almost 4 hours and counting with IT techs.....yippie!

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Device.....

(b) (6), Investigator  
U.S. Dept of Agriculture - FSIS  
Office of Program Evaluation,  
Enforcement and Review  
Compliance & Investigations Division  
155 E. Columbus Street  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
(b) (6) Office  
(b) (6) Blackberry  
614-833-9901 Fax  
email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

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**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Subscription to MeatingPlace  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:33:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

This is the one.

Outside of FSIS portfolio but we are reaching out to Joe Glauber for info on how this will impact price.

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:27 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Subscription to MeatingPlace

Yesterday's AM

<http://www.meatingplace.com/MembersOnly/webNews/details.aspx?item=31572>

**Industry News - AM Fat cattle, LFTB controversy hitting beef trim margins** By [Rita Jane Gabbett](#) on **3/21/2012**

Increased cattle carcass weights — brought on by a warm winter — is bringing fatter cattle to market, which doesn't mean more steaks so much as it means more beef trim.

That, along with reduced demand for lean finely textured beef (LFTB) due to the media storm and its new "pink slime" nickname, is lowering trim prices and punishing overall cutout values, livestock analyst **Len Steiner wrote in the CME Group's Daily Livestock Report.**

Steer weights have jumped to around 850 pounds per carcass, up from 829 pounds a year ago and the five-year average of 828 pounds, according to Steiner. The increased weights have added about 11.1 million pounds of beef to the supply chain — the equivalent of almost 20,000 more head of cattle.

Ample fat trim supplies have pressured the benchmark 50CL (leanness measure) beef trim price, which is now down 17 percent from a year ago.

"Also negative for the fat trim market has been the recent furor about LFTB, which is a by-product of fat trim. With less demand for LFTB, it is likely that packers have had to change some of their trim practices and generate more 50CL beef rather than 30CL or so," Steiner wrote. "As a result, we are now seeing significant premiums paid for lean and extra lean product (generally from cows) and discounts for fat."

**Brian K. Mabry**  
**Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs**  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:23 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** Subscription to MeatingPlace

There is an article on LFTB and prices dropping – can your team dig that up? We don't have a subscription.

**Aaron Lavallee**  
Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.720.6959  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov)  
<http://www.usda.gov>

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**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Subscription to MeatingPlace  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:31:58 AM  
**Attachments:** [image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)  
[image012.png](#)  
[image013.png](#)  
[image014.png](#)  
[image015.png](#)

---

Here are the most recent stories – and I think the mention of prices dropping has to do with the price of beef fat (which I think also was the article Brian circulated a couple of minutes ago). Also, if anyone in the Department is interested in Meatingplace, it's a free subscription – so all you need to do is use an email address to sign up. Hope this is helpful

Industry News - PM

## The LFTB story's newest developments

By [Lisa M. Keefe](#) on 3/21/2012

The LFTB snowball just keeps rolling on.

The past day or so has brought several new developments in the ongoing controversy over lean finely textured beef (that critics call "pink slime").



### Retail

While several retailers, including Costco, have made statements that they do not carry ground beef that includes LFTB, earlier today Safeway Inc. became the first major supermarket chain to say that it will no longer carry ground beef with LFTB.

According to a report on abcnews.com, "considerable consumer concern" led the company to this decision, even as the chain said its beef with the controversial LFTB in it is safe.

"Safeway is committed to providing our customers with the highest-quality products," the company reportedly said in a statement. "While the USDA and food industry experts agree that lean finely textured beef is safe and wholesome, recent news stories have caused considerable consumer concern about this product. Safeway will no longer purchase ground beef containing lean finely textured beef."

Safeway has 1,400 stores coast to coast, second only to Kroger.

In response, Beef Products Inc. released this statement:

"We understand consumer concern, but together food makers and food sellers need to provide information to consumers so they can make informed decisions. When science, food safety and food quality do not rule the day, everyone — whether you sell food or eat food — loses. Lean Beef Trimmings is 100% beef — trimmed right off a steak or roast. And whether it's steaks, roasts or ground beef, it is all made in facilities that use smart safety interventions to deliver it in the safest form possible to the consumer. From a ground beef perspective, the only difference here is whether it is finely ground or coarsely ground."

Safeway executives did not respond to requests for additional information.

### Meanwhile ...

Chef Jamie Oliver, who caused an uproar a year ago by dousing red meat with household ammonia to illustrate



the antimicrobial processes used by Beef Products Inc., has launched a website, [stoppinkslime.org](http://stoppinkslime.org).

In it, he encourages visitors to petition and tweet to the USDA demands that the agency disallow the use of LFTB in any products manufactured in the United States.

#### More education

Finally, American Meat Institute spokeswoman Janet Riley is front-and-center in a new video issued by that organization as part of its MeatNewsNetwork on YouTube. In it she describes the process by which LFTB is made, and seeks to set the record straight on the product and its use in ground beef. Watch the [video](#) here.

Industry News - AM

### Fat cattle, LFTB controversy hitting beef trim margins

By [Rita Jane Gabbett](#) on 3/21/2012

Increased cattle carcass weights — brought on by a warm winter — is bringing fatter cattle to market, which doesn't mean more steaks so much as it means more beef trim.

That, along with reduced demand for lean finely textured beef (LFTB) due to the media storm and its new "pink slime" nickname, is lowering trim prices and punishing overall cutout values, livestock analyst Len Steiner wrote in the CME Group's Daily Livestock Report.

Steer weights have jumped to around 850 pounds per carcass, up from 829 pounds a year ago and the five-year average of 828 pounds, according to Steiner. The increased weights have added about 11.1 million pounds of beef to the supply chain — the equivalent of almost 20,000 more head of cattle.

Ample fat trim supplies have pressured the benchmark 50CL (leanness measure) beef trim price, which is now down 17 percent from a year ago.

"Also negative for the fat trim market has been the recent furor about LFTB, which is a by-product of fat trim. With less demand for LFTB, it is likely that packers have had to change some of their trim practices and generate more 50CL beef rather than 30CL or so," Steiner wrote. "As a result, we are now seeing significant premiums paid for lean and extra lean product (generally from cows) and discounts for fat."

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

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Cell: (202) 695-9950

[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC

**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:23 AM

**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS

**Subject:** Subscription to MeatingPlace

There is an article on LFTB and prices dropping – can your team dig that up? We don't have a subscription.

**Aaron Lavallee**

Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office Direct: 202.720.6959

Cell: (b) (6)

[aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov)

<http://www.usda.gov>

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**From:** [Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC](#)  
**To:** [Ramos, Adela - OSEC](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#); [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#); [Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:15:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

---

Right. I was thinking there was some govt report I wasn't aware of. is it from AMS testing data or some other source? Can you get back to anne?

---

**From:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:12 AM  
**To:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

It's from the 09 michael moss piece - "federal testing" from 05 to 09 shows 4x more salmonella in ground beef with the pink stuff than without it.

---

**From:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:04 AM  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

? Pls advise

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:00 AM  
**To:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

What 2009 report is he referring to that found higher levels of salmonella?

---

**From:** DeJong, Justin - OC  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 10:17 PM  
**To:** Baenig, Brian - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC  
**Cc:** Paul, Matt - OC  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

flagging.

---

**From:** Hagstrom, Jerry [mailto:JHagstrom@nationaljournal.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 10:14 PM  
**To:** DeJong, Justin - OC  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

I will write about this Tuesday, Tell me if you want to react to this.

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:08:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)

---

We need talking points to respond to the story, as Adela requests below. If we had them at the time, I think we will want them updated to reflect our current messaging focus. We'll also need something to respond to the data that ODIFP is pulling together.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)



Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basis/index.html>

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:06 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Carol,

Could you please clarify? Is CPAO being asked to draft a response – ie, a letter – to Senator Tester?

Or are we being asked to draft talking points responding to the article in 2009?

If the latter, specifically the question about testing the BPI product, or about salmonella in the product?

Thanks in advance. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:31 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Cc:** DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Yes, please appoint someone to be point on the response.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
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[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:28 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Carol,

Going through files, I pulled the following information that we used in 2009 to respond to Michael Moss questions. Let me know if you want me to share with David Goldman, Terri and Chris Alvarez.

While a little dated, both in data and the direction from OFS (Jerry Mande personally edited each response), I thought it might be useful. Three separate communications were relevant.

From a 12.07.2009 response to Michael Moss of the New York Times:

**Q6. The accumulation of O157:H7 and salmonella positives in Beef Products product tested for the school lunch program, while periodic, exceeds the rate of some other vendors. Does this raise any question in your minds about your statement that the product has a kill step as effective as cooking?**

A: AMS does not view BPI product as receiving a kill step. BPI product is treated as a raw material like any other raw material.

**Q7. Did FSIS in fact investigate the company's latest O157:H7 and salmonella positives in August, and if so, what did you find and what you have done to prevent a recurrence?**

A: A Food Safety Assessment (FSA) was conducted from September 28, 2009 through October 15, 2009. The company is addressing several issues revealed during the FSA. FSIS is collecting follow up samples of the ammoniated products. There have been 27 samples taken by FSIS since 9/21/09 and all have been negative.

**Q8) A former company official says the USDA should be allowing the company to prepare its own**

**samples for pathogen testing for the school lunch because these samples, he alleges, are manipulated to produce misleading results. Do you have a comment on your decision to let the company gather its own samples for the testing you require?**

A: In order to ensure that the food provided to schools through the National School Lunch Program is safe and healthy, AMS requires the raw material supplier plants to develop technical proposals (written quality management procedures) that address their food safety strategy, including microbiological sampling procedures that AMS reviews and approves before product is supplied. In addition, these plants are audited quarterly by AMS for compliance with their documented quality management program. In order to provide a higher level of confidence in the system, AMS requires the finished products using these raw materials to be tested, using samples pulled under direct AMS supervision. Importantly, FSIS Inspectors are on duty during the plants approved hours of operation. In a processing plant such as this, that means presence at least once per shift per day

From 12.16.2009 response to Michael Moss of the New York Times – our version sent to OC – not sure if the highlighted information was given to Moss:

## **2. When did BPI start producing this lower pH product?**

Due to records retention limits, we cannot definitively say when they started. However, available records indicate since at least 2007.

It is important to note that the plant only shipped product that tested negative for *E. coli* O157:H7.

In addition, USDA testing results reflect the following:

**AMS Testing (NOTE: FSIS releases government test information, AMS policy may differ)**

**3 positives over the last 4 years —**

- 4/4/2006 - AMS sample positive
- 7/11/2008 - AMS positive on LFTB
- 8/10/2009 - AMS positive on LFTB (ammoniated-chips). There were 326 samples tested under the AMS contract between the last two positives with no findings of *E. coli* O157:H7.

### FSIS Testing

FSIS tested product at BPI during follow up sampling in response to a supplier notification in STEPS – all FSIS results were negative.

- 7/14/2008, a single sample, component in STEPS
- 7/21-8/12/2008, a 16 sample set following the AMS positive of 7/11/2008
- 8/26-10/2/2008, a 16 sample set based on a second STEPS entry
- 8/10 /2009, a single STEPS entry, single sample

And finally, our response to his concerns about the communication between AMS and FSIS on 12.17.2009

**Michael Moss  
December 17, 2009**

**I've just learned that AMS had suspended the BPI plant in Finney County previously, in 2007, for excessive pathogen loads.**

**And I'm told that there is no mechanism for AMS to report these suspensions to FSIS, and in fact AMS people**

tell me they do not report these suspensions to FSIS, even though they are far more important than the individual pathogen findings that come along, and so get sent along by AMS to FSIS through emails.

Their attitude at AMS is that FSIS fully aware of the intense scrutiny they apply to their vendors, and that FSIS would have asked to be apprised of these suspensions if FSIS had wanted it.

Can you comment please?

First, if a plant is under contract to AMS or is dropped from the AMS program, the plant is still under the FSIS regulatory requirements.

Second, we would not accept the premise that suspensions are far more important than the individual pathogen findings. Notifying FSIS that a plant is no longer under contract to AMS is less important than FSIS and AMS sharing the results of AMS testing, which feed into FSIS's regulatory role.

AMS may suspend a plant due to a variety of contract specification reasons. (We have requested from AMS the number of plants typically suspended by AMS each year and the number of those suspensions associated with food safety concerns to include in the final response from OC)

We believe that the current system provides FSIS with more important data for its regulatory mission. As the reporter notes, FSIS has an active, on-going arrangement with AMS to get notification of pathogen positive results from their program which is valuable information in our regulatory program. Like in the case of the BPI positive results, this information can lead to regulatory follow up.

FSIS knows when the plant is producing for the AMS contract because of the contract specification requirements that AMS implements. FSIS notifies AMS of all Notice of Intended Enforcement Actions (NOIEs) and Notice of Suspension (NOS), which allows AMS to use that information to determine eligibility of a contract. Again, however, the plant is under FSIS regulatory requirements in either case.

Finally, FSIS is always open to ways to improve our systems and can have a dialog on better ways to share interagency information.

###

**Brian K. Mabry**  
**Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs**  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
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direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:18 AM  
**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Alvares, Christopher - FSIS  
**Cc:** Nintemann, Terri - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Thanks. Please share information with us as soon as you have it.

**Carol Blake**  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building

Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
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[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:14 AM  
**To:** Alvares, Christopher - FSIS  
**Cc:** Nintemann, Terri - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Background on BPI issue.  
Carol, ODIFP is pulling our data.  
David Goldman, MD, MPH  
Assistant Administrator  
USDA-FSIS-OPHS  
202-720-2644

-----  
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

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**From:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 08:08 AM  
**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

I don't think we ever developed talking points to respond to the BPI Moss story. But we need to – looping in Carol. What is our response to those data findings? They are a couple of years old now. BPI's response in the article is essentially "we're not perfect" and that their testing was more likely to find contamination.

Here's the link to the story: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/31/us/31meat.html?pagewanted=all>

---

**From:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:22 AM  
**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

We removed that exemption in 2009, though- we should have data, right?



**From:** [Reed, Jeremy Todd - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Alvares, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 4:28:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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P/DAIG/Analytical Design Branch/AMS/

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Jeremy "Todd" Reed  
Branch Chief, Analytical Design Branch  
Data Analysis and Integration Group  
Office of Data Integration and Food Protection  
Food Safety Inspection Service, USDA  
(202) 690-6053 (o)  
(202) 573-1824 (bb)  
(202) 690-6459 (f)  
[jeremy.reed@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:jeremy.reed@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Alvares, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 03:26 PM  
**To:** Reed, Jeremy Todd - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Go ahead, I can look too if the data is on the P drive or something.

Christopher Alvares  
Director, ODIFP-DAIG  
USDA-FSIS  
(202) 690-6418

---

**From:** Reed, Jeremy Todd - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 03:25 PM  
**To:** Alvares, Christopher - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

I'm picking Alexander up from school. I'll have the results tonight.

Todd

---

Jeremy "Todd" Reed  
Branch Chief, Analytical Design Branch  
Data Analysis and Integration Group  
Office of Data Integration and Food Protection  
Food Safety Inspection Service, USDA  
(202) 690-6053 (o)  
(202) 573-1824 (bb)  
(202) 690-6459 (f)  
[jeremy.reed@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:jeremy.reed@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Alvares, Christopher - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 03:23 PM  
**To:** Reed, Jeremy Todd - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Yes, I'll forward in a second.

Christopher Alvares  
Director, ODIFP-DAIG  
USDA-FSIS  
(202) 690-6418

---

**From:** Reed, Jeremy Todd - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 03:17 PM  
**To:** Alvares, Christopher - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

I've got the data. Do you have a list of the 4 BPI establishments?

Todd

---

Jeremy "Todd" Reed  
Chief, Analytical Design Branch  
Data Analysis and Integration Group  
Office of Data Integration and Food Protection  
Food Safety Inspection Service, USDA

Mail: Mail Stop 3793, PP3, Room 9-142  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-3793  
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Washington, DC 20024

(202) 690-6053 (o)  
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(202) 690-6459 (f)  
[jeremy.reed@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:jeremy.reed@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Alvares, Christopher - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 3:46 PM  
**To:** Reed, Jeremy Todd - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Can you help on this? Nelson is the one I'd normally ask (I sent him an email earlier today), but I realize he's really busy. Does Chris Aston have the data or can Nelson send it to someone to look at? We need a quick turnaround on this.

Basically, we need to see what testing has been done on these 4 BPI establishments in the AMS program and just briefly what the results might be.

Christopher Alvares  
Director, ODIFP-DAIG  
USDA-FSIS  
(202) 690-6418

---

**From:** Nintemann, Terri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 02:12 PM  
**To:** Alvares, Christopher - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Terri Nintemann  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Data Integration and Food Protection  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Room 3130 South  
202-720-8218 phone  
(b) (6) cell phone  
202-690-5634 fax  
terri.nintemann@fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:54 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Nintemann, Terri - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

The products have never been subject to FSIS Salmonella testing, but in the 2 years of O157 testing, FY10-11, there have been no O157 positives in 51 samples. ODIFP is checking to see whether we have the AMS testing results.

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:46 PM  
**To:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

I think it is appropriate to say that at one time USDA was of the understanding that the lethality treatment being applied to the product was sufficient to eliminate E. coli O157:H7 and Salmonella. At some point in time, the establishment chose to lessen the lethality treatment, achieving only a pathogen reduction (not elimination) treatment. At that point, AMS found positives. In addition, FSIS began testing for E. coli O157:H7. It is my understanding that we never found E. coli O157:H7 in any subsequent samples.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
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Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:33 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Checking in on this – we have a meeting with OSEC this afternoon to discuss general next steps on LFTB.

Thanks,  
Adela

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:12 AM  
**To:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Thanks. We'll work with appropriate program offices to pull something together – I'm assuming we'll want it for Jerry Hagstrom today.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
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[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

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**From:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:09 AM  
**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

I don't think we ever developed talking points to respond to the BPI Moss story. But we need to – looping in Carol. What is our response to those data findings? They are a couple of years old now. BPI's response in the article is essentially "we're not perfect" and that their testing was more likely to find contamination.

Here's the link to the story: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/31/us/31meat.html?pagewanted=all>

---

**From:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:22 AM  
**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

We removed that exemption in 2009, though- we should have data, right?

---

**From:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:21 AM  
**To:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Subject:** Re: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

We (FSIS) have not been sampling this product--it has an exemption. It could refer to AMS or some other sampling program. We'll find out.

David Goldman, MD, MPH

Assistant Administrator

USDA-FSIS-OPHS

202-720-2644

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Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

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**From:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:04 AM

**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS

**Cc:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC

**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

? Pls advise

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 07:00 AM

**To:** Hagen, Elisabeth - OSEC; Ramos, Adela - OSEC

**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

What 2009 report is he referring to that found higher levels of salmonella?

---

**From:** DeJong, Justin - OC

**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 10:17 PM

**To:** Baenig, Brian - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Lavalley, Aaron - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC

**Cc:** Paul, Matt - OC

**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

flagging.

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**From:** Hagstrom, Jerry [mailto:JHagstrom@nationaljournal.com]

**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 10:14 PM

**To:** DeJong, Justin - OC

**Subject:** Fw: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

I will write about this Tuesday, Tell me if you want to react to this.

---

**From:** Helling, Andrea (Tester) [mailto:Andrea\_Helling@tester.senate.gov]

**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 05:00 PM

**Subject:** RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 19, 2012



**Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'**  
*Senator questions food product's possible long-term health effects*

(U.S. SENATE) – Senator Jon Tester is calling on the USDA to take “pink slime” off school lunch menus – and replace it with high-quality Montana beef.

While the USDA recently announced plans to give schools a ground beef option that doesn’t use “pink slime,” the agency continued with plans to purchase seven million pounds of the highly processed food product – even as fast food chains like McDonalds pull it from their shelves.

“Pink slime” is a ground beef filler treated with ammonia. The USDA considers it to be safe, but a 2009 report found that it was four times more likely to test positive for salmonella than traditional ground beef.

Tester says too many questions remain about “pink slime” to serve it to children.

“It is tone deaf and inappropriate to purchase a large quantity of this product to feed children even as it is decisively rejected by consumers,” Tester wrote Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “The food that we provide our children should not be over-processed waste, and the quality of the meat created by the process has been called into question.”

Tester also wants the USDA to allow schools to replace “pink slime” with local foods – like Montana beef. Tester’s *Local Food, Farms and Jobs Act* gives schools the flexibility needed to use their USDA commodity dollars on locally-grown foods.

“Montana produces the best beef in the world,” Tester told Vilsack. “Rather than doubling down on hyper-processed products like ‘pink slime,’ USDA should be looking to improve students’ meals and local economies at the same time.”

Tester is working to include his bill in the upcoming Farm Bill. It is available online [HERE](#).

Text of Tester’s letter to Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack is available below and online [HERE](#).

###

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue  
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

In the past week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been the target of significant concerns over the agency's choice to procure seven million pounds of a highly processed product known as "lean finely textured beef." This product, commonly known as "pink slime," has met resistance from parents and consumer advocates. I share their belief that trimmings treated with ammonia are not what consumers expect when they are served ground beef.

While I appreciate the USDA allowing schools for the first time to proactively choose not to use products containing "pink slime," I remain concerned that USDA considers it appropriate to serve it at all. While the USDA continues to insist that "pink slime" is not dangerous for consumers, I question the low standards such a statement endorses. I am concerned that these standards permit the use of harsh chemicals to treat beef trimmings despite the fact that the effectiveness of this treatment, the safety of the processed trimmings, and the quality of the meat created by the process have all been called into question.

In recent months, many national restaurant chains have responded to consumers' rejection of "pink slime" by eliminating it from their products. These restaurants recognize that consumers have growing concerns about and distaste for "pink slime." It is tone deaf and inappropriate to purchase a large quantity of this

product to feed children even as it is decisively rejected by consumers. The food that we provide our children should not be over-processed waste, it should be wholesome, high-quality food to nourish their growing bodies and minds.

I would also mention that Montana produces the best beef in the world, but school nutrition officials who wish to use their USDA commodity dollars to procure food locally are unable to do so. That is one of the reasons several other senators and I introduced the Local Food, Farms and Jobs Act, which would allow schools to use their commodity dollars to incorporate fresh local meat and produce into students' meals. Rather than doubling down on hyper-processed products like "pink slime," USDA should be looking for ideas, like the Local Food, Farms and Jobs Act, to improve students' meals and local economies at the same time. This is the quality food we should be providing our children. I appreciate your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,  
(s)  
Senator Jon Tester

**-30-**

**Contact:** Andrea Helling or Dan Malessa - (202) 228-0371

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Ramos, Adela - OSEC](#); [Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#); [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 3:00:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)

---

Brian is pulling together some talking points. We haven't received data yet.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)

[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)



Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basis/index.html>

---

**From:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:33 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Checking in on this – we have a meeting with OSEC this afternoon to discuss general next steps on LFTB.

Thanks,  
Adela

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:12 AM  
**To:** Ramos, Adela - OSEC; Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; Derfler, Phil - FSIS; Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Tester to USDA: Feed kids Montana beef, not 'pink slime'

Thanks. We'll work with appropriate program offices to pull something together – I'm assuming we'll want it for Jerry Hagstrom today.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)

[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>



**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**To:** DeJong, Justin; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Cc:** Lavallee, Aaron; (b) (6) - AMS; OConnor, Martin - AMS; Morris, Erin - AMS; (b) (6) (FNS)"  
**Subject:** RE: Report  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 4:02:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [Ground Beef Specification Review Timeline 2012-02-02.docx](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

Sorry about that. We sent it up last week but it must have been lost in the shuffle. It is attached.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** DeJong, Justin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 2:55 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; (b) (6) - AMS; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Cc:** Lavallee, Aaron  
**Subject:** Report

Hi all,

On the "pink slime" convos last week, there was some discussion about reports that have validated the safety of our beef product for NSLP. Checking in to see if someone can point me to these?

**Justin DeJong**  
Deputy Director, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.690.0548  
USDA Cell: 202.251.3309  
[justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov](mailto:justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov)  
<http://www.usda.gov>

*Stay Connected with USDA:*



**From:** [Tawadrous, Armia - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Wagner, Scott - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Reeder, Robert - FSIS](#); [Gallegos, Anna - FSIS](#); [Nelson, Ron - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Reporter called about "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 7:32:34 AM

---

Thanks Scott; I appreciate you and Robert for not engaging the media and forwarding such inquiries to our media office. It is always prudent not to talk with them so that you do not misconstrued upon your statements and let CPA in DC manage this process. This pink slime issue is a hot topic now causing controversy.

---

**From:** Wagner, Scott - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:44 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Ron - FSIS; Tawadrous, Armia - FSIS  
**Cc:** Reeder, Robert - FSIS; Gallegos, Anna - FSIS  
**Subject:** Reporter called about "Pink Slime"

Hello,

I just got a call from a reporter for the Denver Post. He wanted to know about "Pink Slime" and the school lunch program. I gave him the CPAO phone # in DC. Just a heads-up.

*Scott T Wagner, DVM*

Deputy District Manager

USDA, FSIS, OFO, Denver

(303) 236-9803

(720) 201-6357 cell

scott.wagner@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** [Tawadrous, Armia - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Reeder, Robert - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Reporter called about "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 7:37:07 AM

---

Good response Robert; despite the fact that you tried in good conscience to educate such folks it is always advisable not to even go that far because they can twist your words and spin them negatively. It is always prudent to forward these folks to CPA in DC. Thanks and take care

Armia

---

**From:** Reeder, Robert - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:29 PM  
**To:** Tawadrous, Armia - FSIS; Nelson, Ron - FSIS  
**Cc:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS; Wagner, Scott - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Reporter called about "Pink Slime"

Hi,

For what it's worth, last week I also received a call, person claiming to be a local Denver chef, wanting to talk about the ills of "pink slim", etc. because he wanted to know why I would allow such repulsive processes to take place. I briefly discussed the food safety aspect, the federal register process of how rules are made, and if he felt strongly about it, he needed to voice his concerns through the consumer groups; that's where he could make a difference.

Thanks,

*Robert Reeder Jr., DVM*

*Denver DDM*

USDA FSIS OFO Denver District  
Denver Federal Center  
P.O. Box 25387, Bldg. 45  
Denver, CO 80225-0387  
(303) 236-9788 Office  
(303) 236-9794 Fax  
(509) 994-4201 (Blackberry)  
[Robert.Reeder@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Robert.Reeder@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Wagner, Scott - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:44 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Ron - FSIS; Tawadrous, Armia - FSIS  
**Cc:** Reeder, Robert - FSIS; Gallegos, Anna - FSIS  
**Subject:** Reporter called about "Pink Slime"

Hello,

I just got a call from a reporter for the Denver Post. He wanted to know about "Pink Slime" and the school lunch program. I gave him the CPAO phone # in DC. Just a heads-up.

*Scott T Wagner, DVM*

Deputy District Manager

USDA, FSIS, OFO, Denver

(303) 236-9803

(720) 201-6357 cell

scott.wagner@fsis.usda.gov

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: REQUEST: Documents for rollout  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:03:43 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

I agree. I have a call with OC shortly. I'll keep you posted.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884 NOTE NEW NUMBER  
Cell: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 02:41 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: REQUEST: Documents for rollout

It seems to me that the talking points are written as though the integrity of the whole program has been put into question. It seems to the Department is allowing the tail to wag the dog, when the issue is really one of consumer preference and whether the system is ready to absorb the cost differential.

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 08:37 PM  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: REQUEST: Documents for rollout

This is pink slime. OC is going to roll out the option selected by the Secretary tomorrow.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884 NOTE NEW NUMBER  
Cell: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 07:38 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: REQUEST: Documents for rollout

No. All that I have been hearing from AMS has been about pink slime. I was at FDA when some of this stuff happened. Dan is on NACMCF so he might know some of it. But Al has been gone and has never mentioned it to me. I am quite sure that this is the first that I heard about it. What is the point?

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 06:41 PM  
**To:** Derfler, Phil - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: REQUEST: Documents for rollout

Are you and OFS up to speed on this announcement, which could happen as soon as noon tomorrow? Brian, Dirk and I have a call with AMS, FNS, and OC comms folks at 8:30 tomorrow morning. It's more of an AMS announcement, but Aaron acknowledges that my press folks are far more capable than others, so we will be providing assistance in the rollout. We'll also review documents for FSIS-related content.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884 NOTE NEW NUMBER  
Cell: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 06:11 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** DeJong, Justin - OC  
**Subject:** REQUEST: Documents for rollout

Team,  
We are pulling together materials on the LFTB issue. We are sending these out to the multiple agencies involved and will hold a phone conference call tomorrow morning to discuss.

Time frame: 12pm tomorrow

-Press release - *Aaron*  
-FAQs – *FSIS Team*

-Blog including, a statement on why we have purchased this beef in the past – will draft last once we have release

-Fact sheet on ground beef safety standards (AMS has something like this already – attached

maybe cleaned up or shortened) - Michael

-AMS 1-pager on how we do procurement - Michael

-Food Safety results Doc to link to in release, start with boilerplate but focus on improvements -  
*FSIS Team*

-USDA Foods improvements (maybe link to YouTube) – sent to FNS

-School Procurement Doc on how schools procure(from FNS) – sent to FNS

**Aaron Lavallee**

Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office Direct: 202.720.6959

Cell: (b) (6)

[aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov)

<http://www.usda.gov>

*Stay Connected with USDA:*



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:46:22 AM

---

Thanks for forwarding. Will look into and advise.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW. . Room 1166 . Washington D.C. 20250  
(b) (6) (W) . (202) 720-7609 (F) . (b) (6) (C)  
e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe. **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:41 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

Thanks (b) (6)

(b) (6) please take a look at this.

Thanks.

Rene' Cardwell  
Deputy Director, ECIMS, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Room 1163-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
(202) 720-9945- Office  
(202) 503-7113- BB  
(202) 205-0158- Fax

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:39 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012



To All,

There are occasions when correspondent will reply back even when I say not to reply to this mailbox. I normally just ignore their reply backs after I read them but I thought that this might be something that you might want to look into. Thanks

---

**From:** Bruce A. Hellmer, P.E. [mailto:(b) (6)@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:26 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

Thank you for the information. However, the letter from Daniel L. Engeljohn, Ph.D. dated March 29, 2012 is in conflicts with the policy he referenced.

Engeljohn wrote:

*FSIS policy would not prohibit the use of the claim "fresh" on ground beef in which lean finely textured beef is used as an ingredient.*

From USDA Food Standards and Labeling policy book:

*FRESH," "NOT FROZEN" AND SIMILAR TERMS WHEN LABELING MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS:*

*The word —fresh" may not be used to describe:*

...

*7. Any product treated with an antimicrobial substance or irradiated.*

...

I suggest that "Pink Slime" fumigated with poisonous ammonia gas to kill antimicrobials should be considered a "*product treated with an antimicrobial substance*".

I request a reply addressing this apparent conflict.

Bruce A. Hellmer  
610 NE Swann Circle  
Lee's Summit, MO. 64086  
(816) 525-0584  
(b) (6) [hotmail.com](mailto:(b) (6)@hotmail.com)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:28 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Response to your email to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool March 15, 2012

\*\*\*\*PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MAILBOX\*\*\*\*

Dear Sir or Madam:

Attached is the response to your email sent to FSIS "Ask Karen" tool on March 15, 2012, regarding the labeling of fresh ground beef. I hope that the response provided is very helpful to you. Thanks

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RightNow Service Notification  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:13:27 AM

---

I assume we have to review the label because the negative claims right? Maybe they should just put "no pink slime!"

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About FSIS/labeling & consumer protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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-----Original Message-----

From: Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 6:51 AM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
Subject: Fw: RightNow Service Notification

My initial thought is I don't think I have a problem with this. It is an ingredient, it just happens that it can be labeled as beef. I think there could be similar examples, e.g., no beef from advanced meat recovery systems, processed without any chemical antimicrobial agents, contains no chicken from necks on a ground poultry product. These may be good or bad examples, just trying to make a point that just because something isn't labeled as an ingredient doesn't automatically prohibit a negative claim. I think we should run by Rachel and Dan before we respond because this is a sensitive issue.

On a side note, kind of interesting that cargill is looking to add negative claim about ftb (b) (4) May not happen though, he implied yesterday that I think industry is proceeding with caution because of risk with press and consumer perception.

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

----- Original Message -----

From: FSIS Labeling & Consumer Protection Staff [<mailto:Labeling@custhelp.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 04:44 AM  
To: Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
Subject: RightNow Service Notification

Incident Assigned Notification

Generated By (b) (6) 03/14/2012 05:44 AM

Reference #120313-000058

-----  
Summary: "Contains no finely textured beef" labeling

Product Level 1: Labeling  
Category Level 1: Food Standards of Identity & Composition  
Category Level 2: Regulatory Standards  
Date Created: 03/13/2012 12:54 PM  
Last Updated: 03/14/2012 05:44 AM  
Status: Unresolved  
Assigned: Jeff Canavan  
Policy Arena?: Domestic (U.S.) Only  
Phone Number: 316-858-5056  
Establishment Number: 86X  
Establishment Size: Not Applicable  
Call Duration:  
Phone Incident:  
Direct Email Incident:  
Analytics Flag:  
Analysis Product:  
Analysis Category:  
Policy Follow-up: No

#### Key Words

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#### Analysis Notes

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#### Discussion Thread

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Auto-Response - 03/13/2012 12:54 PM

Your question has been received by the Labeling and Program Delivery Division. The reference number for your question is 120313-000058. You should receive a response from us within 5 business days.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119068/username/debbie\\_nece@cargill.com](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119068/username/debbie_nece@cargill.com)

Thank you,  
LPDD Staff

Customer By Web Form (Debbie Nece) - 03/13/2012 12:54 PM

Can retail ground beef product be labeled with this statement, "Contains no finely textured beef"? Since FTB is not seen as an ingredient but a raw material instead, we wonder how this statement would apply under Policy Memo 019B.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#); [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: RightNow Service Notification  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 6:56:13 AM

---

I agree, it can be a simple negative claim, how about "No PINK SLIME" But we do need to run by Rachel and Dan.

Sally

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 6:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** Fw: RightNow Service Notification

My initial thought is I don't think I have a problem with this. It is an ingredient, it just happens that it can be labeled as beef. I think there could be similar examples, e.g., no beef from advanced meat recovery systems, processed without any chemical antimicrobial agents, contains no chicken from necks on a ground poultry product. These may be good or bad examples, just trying to make a point that just because something isn't labeled as an ingredient doesn't automatically prohibit a negative claim. I think we should run by Rachel and Dan before we respond because this is a sensitive issue.

On a side note, kind of interesting that cargill is looking to add negative claim about ftb (b) (4) May not happen though, he implied yesterday that I think industry is proceeding with caution because of risk with press and consumer perception.  
Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

----- Original Message -----

**From:** FSIS Labeling & Consumer Protection Staff [<mailto:Labeling@custhelp.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 04:44 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RightNow Service Notification

Incident Assigned Notification

Generated By (b) (6) 03/14/2012 05:44 AM

Reference #120313-000058

-----  
Summary: "Contains no finely textured beef" labeling  
Product Level 1: Labeling  
Category Level 1: Food Standards of Identity & Composition  
Category Level 2: Regulatory Standards  
Date Created: 03/13/2012 12:54 PM  
Last Updated: 03/14/2012 05:44 AM  
Status: Unresolved  
Assigned: Jeff Canavan  
Policy Arena?: Domestic (U.S.) Only  
Phone Number: 316-858-5056  
Establishment Number: 86X  
Establishment Size: Not Applicable

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** OPACE/WSS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - Thanks very much for your assistance!  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:03:20 AM

---

Good morning

Just wanted to express my sincere appreciation to all of you - really need your support & input on this important project endorsed by Under-Secretary Hagen.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) J.D.

Sr. Policy & Program Analyst and Strategic Planner  
Risk, Innovations, and Management Division  
USDA FSIS OPPD RIMD  
1400 Independence Ave., SW Room 2941  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
FON (b) (6)  
FAX: (202) 720-0676  
E-mail: (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Taylor, Kim - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** OPACE/WSS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

I've sent to media for input as well.

-----  
Kim Taylor  
Director Web Services  
Congressional & Public Affairs  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
kim.taylor@fsis.usda.gov  
Direct: 202.690.6188  
Office: 202.720.9113  
Mobile: 202.731.9291

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 07:32 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** OPACE/WSS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

(b) (6) and (b) (6)

1. While the Food Safety Education Staff is certainly the largest contributor to the Fact Sheets section of the web site, this group is not the only contributor. Subject matter experts in OFO, OIA, and OPHS have worked with OPACE staff to produce some of our current fact sheets. We would be happy to add new fact sheets for general audiences on other timely topics.

2. We do have requirements for web content (e.g., compliance with accessibility standards) and we can certainly offer suggestions on good writing for the web (use of descriptive headings, ample white space, etc.) . These suggestions will sound familiar to those who have been working with the Plain Language initiative. However, we don't expect our content contributors to "webify" the documents. Focus on the content and getting that through clearance.

In terms of classification, we will find the best fit under one of the existing headings. We have a large number of categories under Fact Sheets and will not be creating any more. In particular, we do not organize content around the organizational structure because visitors do not search for it in that manner. We can also link to individual fact sheets as appropriate from other areas of the site.

3. I haven't seen the draft, but I would think the ammonium hydroxide issue would be of great interest to our visitors. If you haven't already, you might work with the administrators of the "Ask" applications (Ask Karen and *askFSIS*) to make sure the key points are also included in those knowledge bases. In addition to FSES, you should include the Congressional and Public Affairs Office and the OPACE AA in the clearance chain.

In short, we would be happy to expand our fact sheet offerings. We ask our content providers to furnish WSS a final copy of the document, along with proof of clearance (to the AA level or higher). Content owners are also responsible for periodic review of the content to ensure continued accuracy and relevance.

(b) (6)

*Web Manager*, Web Services Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Room 1150-S

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Phone: 202-720-3698 | Fax: 202-690-3903

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 7:17 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** OPACE/WSS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

(b) (6)

I don't remember seeing a RIMD draft Ammonium hydroxide fact sheet...I it about the "pink slime" issue? We could use a fact sheet on that.

With regard to your questions below, I need to defer to the FSIS Web Services staff (OPACE) for answers. I have copied them on this message.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 3:23 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

**Importance:** High

Hi (b) (6)

Sorry if I confused you on 02-06 re the RIMD draft fact sheet I shared with you - I think I had sent you this previously, but I have been having e-mail troubles.

**Questions:**

1.Are you (OPACE) amenable to RIMD posting our hot topic fact sheets (plain language) where OPACE posts other types of Fact Sheets?

2.If RIMD can post plain language fact sheets there, do you have requirements for such



postings? Formats for Fact Sheets we need to adhere to?

3. Would the draft RIMD Fact Sheet on Ammonium hydroxide, shared with you by me, be deemed (by you) suitable for posting there?

I **think** the answers are: Yes (perhaps a new category (RIMD Fact Sheets) would need to be created on the Fact Sheet site?), Yes, and I need your feedback on the draft (but I think yes).

Please let me know so I can get back to my OPPD & RIMD chains of command and the Under Secretary. Thanks very much.

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:53:19 AM

---

Good, she will be a key member.

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:49 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

I agree; that sharing is part of my project plan.

FYI - I just spoke with (b) (6) and sent her the draft Fact Sheet. She has agreed to serve on my RIMD Plain Language Fact Sheets team representing the Web staff.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

(b) (6)

(b) (6) had a great idea...for RIMD to also submit Qs and As for "Ask Karen" and "Ask FSIS" and possibly talking points for the Meat and Poultry Hotline to accompany the fact

sheets. That would be very helpful for the Hotline folks who also manage the "Ask Karen" database and we could get them cleared at the same time!

(b) (6)

Ps...you did send me the ammonium hydroxide fact sheet. We are looking at it now.

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:32 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** OPACE/WSS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

(b) (6) and (b) (6)

1. While the Food Safety Education Staff is certainly the largest contributor to the Fact Sheets section of the web site, this group is not the only contributor. Subject matter experts in OFO, OIA, and OPHS have worked with OPACE staff to produce some of our current fact sheets. We would be happy to add new fact sheets for general audiences on other timely topics.

2. We do have requirements for web content (e.g., compliance with accessibility standards) and we can certainly offer suggestions on good writing for the web (use of descriptive headings, ample white space, etc.) . These suggestions will sound familiar to those who have been working with the Plain Language initiative. However, we don't expect our content contributors to "webify" the documents. Focus on the content and getting that through clearance.

In terms of classification, we will find the best fit under one of the existing headings. We have a large number of categories under Fact Sheets and will not be creating any more. In particular, we do not organize content around the organizational structure because visitors do not search for it in that manner. We can also link to individual fact sheets as appropriate from other areas of the site.

3. I haven't seen the draft, but I would think the ammonium hydroxide issue would be of great interest to our visitors. If you haven't already, you might work with the administrators of the "Ask" applications (Ask Karen and *askFSIS*) to make sure the key points are also included in those knowledge bases. In addition to FSES, you should include the Congressional and Public Affairs Office and the OPACE AA in the clearance chain.

In short, we would be happy to expand our fact sheet offerings. We ask our content providers to furnish WSS a final copy of the document, along with proof of clearance (to the AA level or higher). Content owners are also responsible for periodic review of the content to ensure continued accuracy and relevance.

(b) (6)

*Web Manager, Web Services Staff*  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Room 1150-S

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Phone: 202-720-3698 | Fax: 202-690-3903

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 7:17 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** OPACE/WSS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

(b) (6)

I don't remember seeing a RIMD draft Ammonium hydroxide fact sheet...I it about the "pink slime" issue? We could use a fact sheet on that.

With regard to your questions below, I need to defer to the FSIS Web Services staff (OPACE) for answers. I have copied them on this message.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 3:23 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

**Importance:** High

Hi (b) (6)

Sorry if I confused you on 02-06 re the RIMD draft fact sheet I shared with you - I think I had sent you this previously, but I have been having e-mail troubles.

**Questions:**

- 1.Are you (OPACE) amenable to RIMD posting our hot topic fact sheets (plain language) where OPACE posts other types of Fact Sheets?
- 2.If RIMD can post plain language fact sheets there, do you have requirements for such postings? Formats for Fact Sheets we need to adhere to?
- 3.Would the draft RIMD Fact Sheet on Ammonium hydroxide, shared with you by me, be deemed (by you) suitable for posting there?

I **think** the answers are: Yes (perhaps a new category (RIMD Fact Sheets) would need to be created on the Fact Sheet site?), Yes, and I need your feedback on the draft (but I think yes).

Please let me know so I can get back t my OPPD & RIMD chains of command and the Under Secretary. Thanks very much.

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - thanks very much!  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 7:36:44 AM

---

I don't think you sent me the draft.....

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 7:19 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - thanks very much!

Thank you - not sure about your "pink slime issue " query - will check. Once we get the Ammonium hydroxide fact sheet through clearance we would like to post on your Fact Sheet site perhaps in a differently named category of Fact Sheets.

Does our draft look like Plain Language to you?

Thanks very much - we would like to get this one posted in early March.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 7:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** OPAE/WSS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

(b) (6)

I don't remember seeing a RIMD draft Ammonium hydroxide fact sheet...I it about the "pink slime" issue? We could use a fact sheet on that.

With regard to your questions below, I need to defer to the FSIS Web Services staff (OPACE) for answers. I have copied them on this message.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 10:14:05 AM

---

Paragraph 3 – (b) (6) comments

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:14 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

Ask applications?

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:53 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

Sure, why not also the 'Ask' applications? –that would be great, once the text is cleared/approved.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: RIMD Ammonium Hydroxide DRAFT fact sheet - clarification on messages sent you on 02-07

(b) (6)

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(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: public comment on federal register FW: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on board - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:28:23 PM

---

We'll attend by phone.

(b) (6)

(b) (6) Ph.D. Microbiologist  
FDA CORE Network, Signals and Surveillance Team  
New address: 4300 River Road, Room 3162  
College Park, MD 20740  
Phone (b) (6)  
Cell (b) (6)  
FAX 301-436-3221  
e-mail (b) (6) @fda.hhs.gov

For more information on CORE, please go to: <http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/CORENetwork/default.htm>

This e-mail message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is protected, privileged, or confidential, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you think you received this e-mail message in error, please e-mail the sender immediately at (b) (6) @fda.hhs.gov .

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS [mailto:Gerri.Ransom@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:07 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: public comment on federal register FW: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on board - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit

YES.

(b) (6) is FDA coming over in-person to meeting tomorrow, or will you attend by phone?

### Gerri M. Ransom

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science  
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-6600  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) @fda.hhs.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:04 PM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: public comment on federal register FW: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on boad - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit

thanks. Hmmm--though, the pink slime comment should probably be about some other advisory committee....

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS [mailto:Gerri.Ransom@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6); (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: public comment on federal register FW: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on boad - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 9:26 AM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: public comment on federal register FW: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on boad - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit

FYI

(b) (6)  
*Advisory Committee Specialist*  
*USDA,FSIS,OPHS,MD,NACMCF*  
*Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B*  
*1400 Independence Avenue, SW*  
*Washington, DC 20250*  
*Office: (b) (6)*  
*Fax: 202-690-6364*  
*Email: (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov*

---

**From:** usacitizen1 usacitizen1 [mailto:usacitizen1@live.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 24, 2012 6:58 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; alfred.almanza@fsis.usda.gov; deficitreduction@senate.gov; info@taxpayer.net; media@cagw.org  
**Subject:** public comment on federal register FW: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on boad - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit

no beltway insiders should be chosen. you should look for an honest person. insiders are always chosen. that is why our federal govt is so insane these days. no common sense is being shown. present decisions issuing from usda are hurting america. many countries dont want to buy american food. they have to be pressured to do it. they know we are getting ge Frankenfood, cloning, and other horrors, where you dont label the bgh and other crap that is done to food. this agency is sick and dishonest to the public. the quality of who is on the present advisory board, in my opinion, is not good. it needs improvement. what is being done to american people by the lousy people working at the usda is beyond belief. giving us pink slime to eat - thats an indication. especially in these times of bovine spongiform encephalopathy.  
jean public

---

To: usacitizen1@live.com  
Subject: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on boad - thats why these agencies are going wildy out orbit  
From: (b) (6)@aol.com  
Date: Thu, 22 Mar 2012 10:30:09 -0400

[Federal Register Volume 77, Number 56 (Thursday, March 22, 2012)]  
[Notices]  
[Pages 16807-16809]  
From the Federal Register Online via the Government Printing Office  
[[www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov)]  
[FR Doc No: 2012-6895]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2012-0010]

Nominations for Membership on the National Advisory Committee on  
Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

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SUMMARY: This notice is announcing that the U.S. Department of  
Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting nominations for membership to fill 16  
vacancies on the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological  
Criteria for Foods (NACMCF).

NACMCF is seeking members with scientific expertise in the fields  
of epidemiology, food technology, microbiology (food, clinical, and  
predictive), toxicology, risk assessment, infectious disease,  
biostatistics, and other related sciences. NACMCF is seeking  
applications from persons from academia, industry, consumer groups,  
State governments, and the Federal Government, as well as all other  
interested persons with such expertise.

Please note that federally registered lobbyists cannot be  
considered for USDA advisory committee membership. Members can only  
serve on one USDA advisory committee at a time. All nominees will  
undergo a USDA background check.

Members who are not Federal government employees will be appointed  
to serve as non-compensated special government employees (SGEs). SGEs  
will be subject to appropriate conflict of interest statutes and  
standards of ethical conduct.

To receive consideration for serving on the NACMCF, a nominee must  
submit a resume and USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background  
Information form AD-755. The resume or curriculum vitae must be limited  
to five one-sided pages and should include educational background,  
expertise, and a list of select publications. For submissions received  
that are more than five one-sided pages in length, only the first five  
pages will be reviewed. USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background  
Information form AD-755 is available online at:  
<http://www.ocio.usda.gov/forms/doc/AD-755.pdf>.

DATES: Nominations including a cover letter to the Secretary, and the  
nominee's typed resume or curriculum vitae and a completed USDA  
Advisory Committee Membership Background

[[Page 16808]]

Information form AD-755 must be received by April 23, 2012. Self  
nominations are welcome.

ADDRESSES: Nomination packages including a cover letter to the  
Secretary accompanied by a resume and AD-755 form can be sent by mail  
to: Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400  
Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Attn: National Advisory

## Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Karen Thomas-Sharp, Advisory Committee Specialist, by telephone at 202-690-6620 or by email [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov).

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by either of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: This Web site (<http://www.regulations.gov>) provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this Web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Follow the online instructions at that site for submitting comments.

Mail, including CD-ROMS: Send to Docket Clerk, USDA, FSIS Docket Room, Patriots Plaza 3, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Mailstop 3782, Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

Hand- or courier-delivered items: Deliver to the Docket Clerk, USDA, FSIS Docket Room at Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. Street SW., Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2012-0010. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Docket: For access to background documents or comments received, go to the FSIS Docket Room at Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. Street SW., Room 8-164, Washington, DC 20250-3700 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

The NACMCF was established in March 1988, in response to a recommendation in a 1985 report of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Food Protection, Subcommittee on Microbiological Criteria, "An Evaluation of the Role of Microbiological Criteria for Foods." The current charter for the NACMCF and other information about the Committee are available for viewing to the public on the FSIS Web site at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSID/NACMCF/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSID/NACMCF/index.asp).

The Committee provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services concerning the development of microbiological criteria by which the safety and wholesomeness of food can be assessed. For example, the Committee assists in the development of criteria for microorganisms that indicate whether food has been processed using good manufacturing practices.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that recommendations made by the Committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department.

Given the complexity of issues, the full Committee expects to meet at least once a year by teleconference or in-person, and the meetings will be announced in the Federal Register. The subcommittees will meet as deemed necessary by the chairperson and will be held as working group meetings in an open public forum. Subcommittees also may meet through teleconference or by computer-based conferencing (Webinars). Subcommittees may invite technical experts to present information for consideration by the subcommittee. The subcommittee meetings will not be announced in the Federal Register. FSIS will announce the agenda and subcommittee working group meetings through the Constituent Update, available online at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news\\_events/Constituent\\_Update/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_events/Constituent_Update/index.asp).

NACMCF holds subcommittee meetings in order to accomplish the work of NACMCF; all subcommittee work is reviewed and approved during a public meeting of the full Committee, as announced in the Federal Register. All data and records available to the full Committee are expected to be available to the public when the full Committee reviews and approves the work of the subcommittee.

Advisory Committee members have a two-year term, renewable for two consecutive terms. Members are expected to attend all in-person meetings for the smooth functioning of this advisory committee. However, the Advisory Committee realizes that unexpected events or extenuating circumstances (e.g., a personal or family emergency) may

result in a member's inability to attend an in-person meeting and that attendance through teleconferencing may be necessary. Some meetings may be held through teleconferencing and or Webinars exclusively.

Members must be prepared to work outside of scheduled Committee and subcommittee meetings and may be required to assist in document preparation. Committee members serve on a voluntary basis; however, travel expenses and per diem reimbursement are available.

#### Regarding Nominees Who Are Selected

All SGE and Federal government employee nominees who are selected must complete the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) 450 Confidential Financial Disclosure Report before rendering any advice or prior to their first meeting. All members will be reviewed for conflict of interest pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 208 in relation to specific NACMCF work charges. Financial disclosure updates will be required annually. Members must report any changes in financial holdings requiring additional disclosure. OGE 450 forms are available on-line at: <http://www.oge.gov/Financial-Disclosure/Confidential-Financial-Disclosure-450/OGE-Form-450/>.

#### Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this notice online through the FSIS Web page located at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations & policies/Federal Register Notices/index](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations%20and%20policies/Federal%20Register%20Notices/index).

FSIS will also make copies of this Federal Register publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is also available on the FSIS Web page. In addition, FSIS offers an electronic mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Email Subscription/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News%20&%20Events/Email%20Subscription/). Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or

[[Page 16809]]

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To file a written complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Done at Washington, DC, on March 19, 2012.

Alfred V. Almanza,  
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2012-6895 Filed 3-21-12; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Question for USDA  
**Date:** Friday, March 02, 2012 9:01:52 AM

---

Good Morning Aaron,

Thank you. We'll provide Penny with the response below. As discussed, in anticipation of the school district requesting more specific information on whether any beef product it received through USDA included the LFTB, I'm looping in Mike to see what AMS might be able to provide.

Thanks everyone,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 5:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) FNS; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** RE: Question for USDA

Here is the cleared response – If someone at SERO can let me know this was received and that this will be the version sent to Miami Dade county I would greatly appreciate it. CCing FSIS so that they can be ready in the event this goes to the press.

#### RESPONSE

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP), administered by the USDA, purchases approximately 20 percent of the products served in schools across the country. In other words, the majority, approximately 80 percent, is purchased by schools or school districts directly through private vendors and not USDA. In its role as the purchasing agent, to quantify how much of a particular product purchased by USDA is served in specific school districts or specific schools is difficult to measure and depends upon a case by case or even school-by-school basis. Procurement officials for schools may have this information.

Since the early 1990s, Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) has been allowed as a component of the ground beef purchased by USDA for distribution through the NSLP. The maximum allowable percentage of LFTB that may be formulated into single servings of the ground beef purchased for the NSLP is 15 percent, which is similar to the composition found in many commercially available ground beef products. USDA does not purchase LFTB directly. Rather, LFTB may be used as a raw material in USDA-purchased ground beef products after it undergoes stringent testing. Of the ground beef purchased by USDA in 2011 for the NSLP, LFTB comprised approximately 6.5 percent of the total volume.



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration as well as the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) considers ammonium hydroxide as “generally recognized as safe.” FSIS reviewed the suitability of Beef Products, Inc.’s (BPI) use of ammonium hydroxide in order to assess its effectiveness in performing the intended technical purpose of use, at the lowest level necessary, and to ensure that the product is not adulterated or misleading to consumers.

All USDA beef purchases for the NSLP and other Federal food and nutrition assistance programs meet very high food safety standards, which include stringent pathogen testing. Beef supplied by BPI as a component of the beef products purchased by USDA for the NSLP is subject to the same strict pathogen testing requirements for beef raw ingredients.

Additional information on this product or product specific inquiries should be directed to BPI at <http://www.beefproducts.com/>.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) FNS; Jarvis, Michael - AMS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS;  
Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** FW: Question for USDA  
**Importance:** High

Hello (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) or Michael,

An Elected School Board Member is asking Penny Parham, Child Nutrition Director with Miami-Dade County Public Schools in Miami, Florida if they offer any “pink slime” (see attached FW email) beef products (ammoniated beef products) in the her schools.

Penny wants to know if there’s a way to find out if her district received any of the ammoniated beef products from Beef Products, Inc (see attached Q&As) through the USDA commodities program or any other provider/vendor? (Kirk Farquharson said AMS would have to provide that information for us).

She also asked if ammoniated beef products are allowed by the USDA in the National School Lunch Program. I confirmed that they are and she found the FSIS directive indicating it is an approved ingredient/additive.

I have asked HQ if we can share the attached Q&As with Penny since they came from FSIS and AMS, not FNS. USDA’s Office of Communications has also asked us to direct all media inquiries to them. Waiting to see how they want us to handle.

Penny said her Board member is looking for a quick answer and that it’s possible her Board Member may talk to the media about the answers we give.

Please advise on how to help her track down a response asap.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Parham, Penny [mailto:(b) (6)@dadeschools.net]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 2:50 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FNS

**Subject:** Question for USDA

Hello Aaron,

I have a question regarding USDA policy – I do not have your telephone number!

Can you call me at (b) (6) or send me your number?

Thanks!

**Penny Parham, MS, RD**

Administrative Director, Department of Food and Nutrition

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

7042 West Flagler Street

Miami, FL 33144

office 786.275.0420

fax 786.275.0844

cellular (b) (6)

(b) (6)@dadeschools.net

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Question  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:19:58 AM

---

(b) (6) and I both believe consumers should have a choice because this is a rendered product and is inferior like a filler when though it comes from the scraps of a carcass.

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:19 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Question

Yeah, (b) (6) said Cargill has shut down a plant. No grocery stores want FTB for ground beef. I imagine they will divert it to truly secondary product uses such as beef filling for a beef ravioli. We see LFTB used there.

Jeff

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:16 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Question

I like that solution...

(b) (6) MS, VMD  
PHV Staff Officer  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD Policy Development Division  
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1616 Capitol Avenue Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5908  
Phone (b) (6) Fax (402) 344-5007

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---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Question

I don't think so. We are getting a lot of pressure and may allow a claim such as "contains no finely textured beef." The final decision is with the Administrator for consideration as we speak. Hope to hear something today.

Jeff

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:16 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Question

Will we ever change that decision? There was a big headline news story last night on

FOX and it said that several of the plants producing this product have closed due to the public protect...

(b) (6) MS, VMD  
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---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Question

(b) (6)

Yes, labeling of LFTB is similar to AMR. The commodity itself needs a descriptive designation, e.g., "lean finely textured beef" or "BPI lean chips, derived from beef trimmings." However, FSIS determined it can be used in secondary products (including ground beef and hamburger) and just listed as beef.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 02:56 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Question

Jeff,

Can you answer (b) (6) question? Is this like AMR, once it is processed and then incorporated it is no longer AMR but just 'beef'?

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 9:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** Question

Hi (b) (6)

In all this discussion from FSIS about removing "pink slime" from ground beef....is this not the following true???

"Pink Slime" is Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB)

According to § 319.15(a), chopped beef and ground beef cannot contain LFTB.

According to § 319.15(b), hamburger cannot contain LFTB.

According to § 319.15(c), beef patties can contain LFTB.

Is it not fraud to put LFTB in something and call it chopped beef, ground beef, or hamburger.

(b) (6) // Consumer Safety Officer

USDA, FSIS, OPPD, Policy Development Division

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260

Omaha NE 68102-5908

(b) (6)

*Submit your questions to...*

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Question  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:18:17 AM

---

Did not see the FOX. What I saw was on Channel 7 ABC news. It was the lady who was head of BPI speaking to the press.

(b) (6) / Consumer Safety Officer  
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Omaha NE 68102-5908

(b) (6)  
Submit your questions to...  
<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Question

Did you see the report on FOX? They said 'We feed this to our children'...it is 'Beef, 100% Beef....what would you have us call it?'.....Pink Slime of course.

(b) (6) MS, VMD  
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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:13 AM  
**To:** Hulse, Laura - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Butler, Kim - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Question

Also in that Public news release yesterday BPI called their product LFTB.

(b) (6) / Consumer Safety Officer  
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1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260  
Omaha NE 68102-5908  
(b) (6)

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---

**From:** Hulse, Laura - FSIS

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:00 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Butler, Kim - FSIS; (b) (6) FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Question

I'm sure all of you have heard on the news they are discontinuing production of "pink slime"; shutting down or laying off from 3 plants.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Hulsey, Laura - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Question  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:00:24 AM

---

I saw the story, but one plant is still operational....and making product.

(b) (6) MS, VMD  
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---

**From:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Butler, Kim - FSIS; (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: Question

I'm sure all of you have heard on the news they are discontinuing production of "pink slime"; shutting down or laying off from 3 plants.



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Question  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:54:13 AM

---

Good question....let me ask LPDD....I don't think they call that ammoniated beef...LFTB...it is low temperature rendered and I think they are allowed to label it as beef, finely textured.

(b) (6) MS, VMD

PHV Staff Officer

USDA, FSIS, OPPD Policy Development Division

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1616 Capitol Avenue Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5908

Phone (b) (6) Fax (402) 344-5007

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 9:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Question

Hi (b) (6)

In all this discussion from FSIS about removing "pink slime" from ground beef....is this not the following true???

"Pink Slime" is Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB)

According to § 319.15(a), chopped beef and ground beef cannot contain LFTB.

According to § 319.15(b), hamburger cannot contain LFTB.

According to § 319.15(c), beef patties can contain LFTB.

Is it not fraud to put LFTB in something and call it chopped beef, ground beef, or hamburger.

(b) (6) // Consumer Safety Officer

USDA, FSIS, OPPD, Policy Development Division

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Omaha NE 68102-5908

(b) (6)

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<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: question  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:18:20 AM

---

Sure. Another couple of weeks and you'll have a dark stout pineapple beer.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: question

Ahhh. "Pink" slime is what I am looking for. Black, pineapple tasting slime is OK.

(b) (6), CSI-IIC

USDA Food Safety Inspection Service

Establishment #04390

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: question

Just as long as you didn't find pink slime in the hamburger I think your fine.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 7:54 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** question

So, while inspecting the gut barrels I observed black slime in the bottom. Upon further examination I found that it tasted like pineapples. Is this a noncompliance?

(b) (6), CSI-IIC

USDA Food Safety Inspection Service

Establishment #04390

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Hulsey, Laura - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Question  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:20:23 AM

---

I will find it for you...I remember taking a call on it.

(b) (6) MS, VMD  
PHV Staff Officer  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD Policy Development Division  
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building  
1616 Capitol Avenue Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5908  
Phone (b) (6) Fax (402) 344-5007

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---

**From:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Question

You're not talking about the e coli story, are you? I don't remember pink slime back that far.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:19 AM  
**To:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Question

Remember back about two years about there was a story in the New York times ....

(b) (6) MS, VMD  
PHV Staff Officer  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD Policy Development Division  
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building  
1616 Capitol Avenue Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5908  
Phone (b) (6) Fax (402) 344-5007

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---

**From:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:18 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Question

It had to be a publicity nightmare for the company. I wonder who first called it pink slime?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:00 AM  
**To:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Question

I saw the story, but one plant is still operational....and making product.

(b) (6) MS, VMD  
PHV Staff Officer  
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1616 Capitol Avenue Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5908  
Phone (b) (6) Fax (402) 344-5007

*Policy is my passion.  
Have you searched [askFSIS?](#)*

---

**From:** Hulse, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Butler, Kim - FSIS; (b) (6)

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Question

I'm sure all of you have heard on the news they are discontinuing production of "pink slime"; shutting down or laying off from 3 plants.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 6:58 AM  
**To:** Butler, Kim - FSIS; (b) (6)

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: Question

If you also have the same question (b) (6) had....

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Question

(b) (6)

Yes, labeling of LFTB is similar to AMR. The commodity itself needs a descriptive designation, e.g., "lean finely textured beef" or "BPI lean chips, derived from beef trimmings." However, FSIS determined it can be used in secondary products (including ground beef and hamburger) and just listed as beef.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 02:56 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Question

Jeff,

Can you answer (b) (6) question? Is this like AMR, once it is processed and then incorporated it is no longer AMR but just 'beef'?

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 9:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Question

Hi (b) (6)

In all this discussion from FSIS about removing "pink slime" from ground beef....is this not the following true???

"Pink Slime" is Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB)

According to § 319.15(a), chopped beef and ground beef cannot contain LFTB.

According to § 319.15(b), hamburger cannot contain LFTB.

According to § 319.15(c), beef patties can contain LFTB.

Is it not fraud to put LFTB in something and call it chopped beef, ground beef, or hamburger.

(b) (6) Consumer Safety Officer  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, Policy Development Division  
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building  
1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260  
Omaha NE 68102-5908

(b) (6)

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<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

**From:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Gould, Christopher - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Quick question on "pink slime"  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:51:58 PM

---

Dirk's got it about perfect.

Brian K. Mabry  
Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

-----Original Message-----

From: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:45 PM  
To: Gould, Christopher - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Quick question on "pink slime"

Disclaimer - overly simplified explanation: When they first started making the product, they applied ammonia at a 100% kill level, but they lowered that (which is a sensitive issue because they didn't inform us before doing so) and then some people started to get sick (ala the NY Times Pulitzer-winning story), and now we test it because they no longer apply the 100% kill level - at least that's my lay explanation, and probably overly simplified.

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

-----Original Message-----

From: Gould, Christopher - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:43 PM  
To: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
Subject: Quick question on "pink slime"

So when I talked to Phil, he said as long as they follow their procedures, there's no food safety issue but that we do test whereas we weren't testing before - anything I should know about what he means by that?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Office  
Safety & Inspection Service

[REDACTED]

202-388

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**From:** (b) (6) -FSIS  
**To:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:02:47 PM

---

Gracias much appreciated😊

(b) (6)

Program Evaluation and Improvement Staff

Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement and Review

Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

Phone (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 690-1030

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

I'll get right on that. Never mind keeping (b) (6) happy (or less unhappy) and staying out of the OFS and OC doghouses.....will put your needs at the top of the list.

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460

[Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.Gaffney@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:54 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

Ok fine just convince him to come back then!

(b) (6)

Program Evaluation and Improvement Staff

Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement and Review

Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 690-1030

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

I would but he would accuse me of flirting with you, trying to get on good terms with you.....

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Rm. 1175-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

O.: 202-690-3386; BB: 202-573-1845; Fax. 202-690-0460

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<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:52 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

Lol exactly - next time he comes over to congratulate you on your work can you please let him know?

(b) (6)

Program Evaluation and Improvement Staff

Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement and Review

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Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 690-1030

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

And/or give you a promotion and raise.

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

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<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:50 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

Haha funny no, he still needs to come back!!

(b) (6)

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---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:42 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

No, you're nicer. And prettier. (I know, I know, I just had a workplace sensitivity training violation. Sue me.)

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

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<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:41 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

So he can come back!!

(b) (6)

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Fax: (202) 690-1030

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

Wow.....I mean.....wow.

Memo to self: (b) (6) is not to be trifled with.

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

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<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:36 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

Good-- I hope nobody shares lunch or plays nicely with him ☺

(b) (6)

Program Evaluation and Improvement Staff

Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement and Review

Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

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Fax: (202) 690-1030

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:33 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

Your old boss dropped in yesterday afternoon to bother me, er, say hello (he said he had heard I had been doing some great work this week; needless to say, I was skeptical). I asked him how he was liking his new school and whether or not he had made any new friends. He said all the kids in his new school dress funny and listen to weird music. Hmmm.....

Neil Gaffney

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<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:17 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

LOL I won't tell her you said that.

(b) (6)

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(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:16 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

She doesn't. She is just being nice. She's annoying (to (b) (6) that way.

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

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<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:15 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

HA! I told him she missed him ☺

(b) (6)

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---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:14 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

He torments me on Facebook and is nice to Atiya (Khan). Shocker.

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

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<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:11 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

Haha! That sounds like him! And that's fine, blame him for everything....as I sure do right now!! ☺

(b) (6)

Program Evaluation and Improvement Staff

Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement and Review

Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

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(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:10 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

I actually want to blame your old boss since he blamed me for the pink slime coverage.....

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:09 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

No problem. Don't apologize!

(b) (6)

Program Evaluation and Improvement Staff

Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement and Review

Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 690-1030

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:08 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

Okay, thank you. Sorry to bother you.

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:07 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

Hi Neil,

The OPEER enforcement report includes more than just humane handling, but (b) (6) is checking on the DAIG report for you, which can be requested through footprints. I'm copying him here and he is going to respond to you as well. Thanks.

(b) (6)

Program Evaluation and Improvement Staff

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Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

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(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:00 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Quick Question

Hi (b) (6) –

Sorry to trouble you with this but....by any chance do you know where on the FSIS website I can find the quarterly reports for humane handling violations? I'm guessing here:

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/QuarterlyEnforcementReports/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/QuarterlyEnforcementReports/index.asp)

Regards,

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

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<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

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**From:** [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:28:32 PM

---

You, too.

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

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<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:28 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

so you won't have to worry about me esp since you gave me the rest of the day off have a nice evening!

(b) (6)

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Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 690-1030

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:19 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

We trust each other and look out for each other. Especially against evil, Debbie Downer (cows) Eeyore-type people like (b) (6)

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service

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<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:18 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

I learn new rules around here every day.

(b) (6)

Program Evaluation and Improvement Staff

Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement and Review

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Fax: (202) 690-1030

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:17 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

She's my office spouse, so it's okay.

Neil Gaffney

*Press Officer*

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Food Safety and Inspection Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

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<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:17 PM  
**To:** Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

LOL I won't tell her you said that.

(b) (6)

Program Evaluation and Improvement Staff

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Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

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Fax: (202) 690-1030

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Weekly Report to the President - March 27  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 3:29:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [Weekly Report to the President - March 27 2012.docx](#)

---

A few edits. thanks!

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:02 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Weekly Report to the President - March 27  
**Importance:** High

<< File: Weekly Report to the President - March 27, 2012.docx >>

Hi Carol,

This week's President report is attached for your review/clearance.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*



*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

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*Email:* (b) (6) *fsis.usda.gov*

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Recording calls about Ammonia in beef in Hotline Database  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:50:36 AM

---

Sure will when I find it. I'm still searching in my files.

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:50 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Recording calls about Ammonia in beef in Hotline Database

Ok. Thanks. She was from school program.

I don't know anything about it. Would you send me a copy of the letter...just to have an idea of what its about?

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Recording calls about Ammonia in beef in Hotline Database

If you have too yes especially if the questions are too complex. If they are just making comments and not really asking anything it gets tougher.

I'm trying to create my own talking points from a letter I have from ECIMS about it (just basics) from 2011 but I can't find my e-file version. I think it was sent to all of us sometime in April of last year.

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:44 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Recording calls about Ammonia in beef in Hotline Database

I just got a call about this- do we send them to the tech center?

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:56 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)  
- FSIS  
**Subject:** Recording calls about Ammonia in beef in Hotline Database  
**Importance:** High

Hi,

(b) (6) is working on getting us talking points. We have had several questions about this topic pop up in the Ask Karen email since yesterday (McDonalds story in the news) and the tone is not positive. I suspect we will be getting calls about this topic on the Hotline.

Please record them under the following in the database:

Topic = Additives

Sub Topic= Ammonia "pink slime" in meat

Please try to fill in the Category, Product Name, Product Form and a summary of your discussion with the consumer in the notes section as well. . I may get asked to provide statistics on the number of calls, what consumers are asking, where are they calling from etc. The more information I have the better.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) **RD RN**

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](https://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Recording calls about Ammonia in beef in Hotline Database  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:42:06 AM

---

Thanks.

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854  
or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:21 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Recording calls about Ammonia in beef in Hotline Database

Yes, you can change it the sub topic. I think the system changes the date of your call, but that's no big deal in this case.

(b) (6) RD RN  
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USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
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Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:03 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Recording calls about Ammonia in beef in Hotline Database

(b) (6)

I had one call yesterday, once again she wasn't sure what she needed to ask me, just that she was against ammonia in beef. I sent her to labeling because she asked why it wasn't

listed on the label.

I f I found the call in the system could I change the sub topic?

(b) (6)

*Food Safety Specialist*

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2-L248C, MS- 5269

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854

or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:56 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;

(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;

**Subject:** Recording calls about Ammonia in beef in Hotline Database

**Importance:** High

Hi,

(b) (6) is working on getting us talking points. We have had several questions about this topic pop up in the Ask Karen email since yesterday (McDonalds story in the news) and the tone is not positive. I suspect we will be getting calls about this topic on the Hotline.

Please record them under the following in the database:

Topic = Additives

Sub Topic= Ammonia "pink slime" in meat

Please try to fill in the Category, Product Name, Product Form and a summary of your discussion with the consumer in the notes section as well. . I may get asked to provide statistics on the number of calls, what consumers are asking, where are they calling from etc. The more information I have the better.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Recording calls about Ammonia in beef in Hotline Database  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:57:53 PM

---

Great, thanks

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:46 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Recording calls about Ammonia in beef in Hotline Database

Hi,

Yes, easier said than done. I will attempt to get it to show up in the right place but for now "additives" will do.

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2L-248D

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:34 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Recording calls about Ammonia in beef in Hotline Database

(b) (6)

Did you want to add this topic under 'additives' in AskKaren?

I don't know if you can do that from home,

But thought I'd ask – was just going to close the chat I had about 1 such call ('pink slime')

So these can be tracked as well..?

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:56 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)  
- FSIS

**Subject:** Recording calls about Ammonia in beef in Hotline Database

**Importance:** High

Hi,

(b) (6) is working on getting us talking points. We have had several questions about this topic pop up in the Ask Karen email since yesterday (McDonalds story in the news) and the tone is not positive. I suspect we will be getting calls about this topic on the Hotline.

Please record them under the following in the database:

Topic = Additives

Sub Topic= Ammonia "pink slime" in meat

Please try to fill in the Category, Product Name, Product Form and a summary of your discussion with the consumer in the notes section as well. . I may get asked to provide



statistics on the number of calls, what consumers are asking, where are they calling from etc. The more information I have the better.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) **RD RN**

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Regulation about ground meat labeling  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 2:07:52 PM

---

It's been my experience that if calls are about regulations on meat and poultry (processing, haccp, as well as labeling.. ) if we don't have something already ready or pre-approved , as found in fact sheets for example, or fresh new 'talking points' – e.g. pink slime recently—then, consumer or not I would still refer to FSIS Labeling or PDD as the case may be.

IF it appears that it's something that State Health/Ag dept can answer directly, e.g. store-ground meats, store packaged meat/poultry, etc. on the premises

Then I provide that dept.

For (b) (6) earlier, I suggested the caller (consumer) call our Labeling Division; but also the State AG/health answer, especially if the meat is store packaged, or what we term as 'further processed'

--many stores do buy large chubs of ground beef from USDA plants but then go on to cut further and wrap with their own names.

-----  
Some things we do have ready to share with callers, here is something for the ground beef fact sheet:

Beef fat may be added to "hamburger," but not "ground beef." A maximum of 30% fat is allowed in either hamburger or ground beef. Both hamburger and ground beef can have seasonings, but no water, phosphates, extenders, or binders added. The labeling of meat food products must comply with the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) and the meat inspection regulations and labeling policies.

Most states and cities set standards for store-packaged ground beef which, by law, cannot be less than Federal standards.

If products in retail stores were found to contain more than 30% fat, they would be considered "misbranded" under Federal law.

These fact sheets are so helpful with such info, and our dear colleagues, like (b) (6) and (b) (6) are so diligent in keeping all of us on track whether creating or updating them.

(thanks (b) (6) and (b) (6))

-----

Let me know if this helps, or if you have additional suggestions and comments.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:31 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Regulation about ground meat labeling

That would be my 'hunch' (b) (6)

[Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Headquarters Home Page](#)

[Dr. Douglas Hepper](#), Branch Chief

1220 N Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 900-5004; Fax (916) 900-5334

[E-mail us](#)

(b) (6)

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Regulation about ground meat labeling

It's ground and labeled at the grocery store in California. Maybe it's a State regulation.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:29 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Regulation about ground meat labeling

I realize she's a consumer

But the question was: what are our labeling regulations (FSIS)

That's what I understood—our fact sheets don't go into that detail, and I don't see any that address.

Is it pre-packaged at a USDA plant, 'case-ready' ground?

Would you like me to check with other staff here?

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:27 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Regulation about ground meat labeling

She's a consumer. I don't want to give her the labeling experts.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:25 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Regulation about ground meat labeling

I would just refer her to FSIS labeling office -- ..nothing specific to this could I find in AskFSIS (though they do answer many labeling q's)

If it's store ground, then the state ag/health would be of interest (I'm sure you know)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:21 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Regulation about ground meat labeling

This caller says two of her stores say they can no longer put ground "Chuck" or "Round" on their ground meat packages. Can you direct me to an FSIS regulation that states this? I can't find it.

(b) (6)

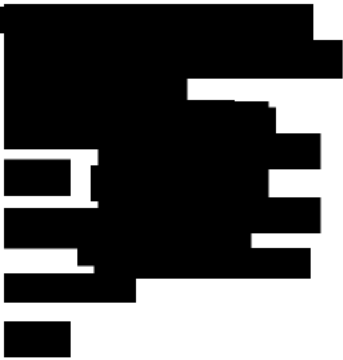
**Food Safety Specialist**

**USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline**

**Room 2L254-B**

**5601 Sunnyside Ave.**

**Beltsville, MD 20705-5000**



(b) (6)

Fax (301) 504-2092

1 (888) MPHotline or 1 (888) 674-6854

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](https://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Alexander, Bruce - FNS](#)  
**To:** [DeJong, Justin - OC](#); [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); (b) (6) - OSEC; [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Ramos, Adela - OSEC](#)  
**Cc:** [Paul, Matt - OC](#); [Rowe, Courtney - OC](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Release Clearance: LFTB release and materials  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:10:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

Great job team!

Bruce

**Bruce C. Alexander**  
Director, Communications & Governmental Affairs  
U.S. Department of Agriculture - Food & Nutrition Service  
3101 Park Center Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22302  
(703) 305-2281 (office)  
[Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov)

---

**From:** DeJong, Justin - OC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:09 PM  
**To:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); (b) (6) - OSEC; [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); (b) (6) - OSEC; [Alexander, Bruce - FNS](#); (b) (6) - AMS; [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Ramos, Adela - OSEC](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OC; [Rowe, Courtney - OC](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Release Clearance: LFTB release and materials

Folks, FYI on first two pieces out tonight on ABC w/ Diane Sawyer and AP.

Station: WJLA-DC (ABC)

Date: 03/14/2012 18:40:58 - 6:50:58 PM

from one whistle-blower to another, we are getting reaction tonight. and the subject, **pink slime**. one week ago, jim avila brought us that report. a beef insider speaking out about something commonly known as **pink slime**. a filler used in 70% of all ground beef in this country, including the beef sold to public schools. jim's story prompted a public outcry. the usda heard it. and tomorrow, they will announce that starting this fall, schools will be given a choice. to buy the less-expensive hamburger patties that contain **pink slime**. or bulk ground beef that does not. and the usda insists that all that meat is safe. and what about the ground beef in your supermarket? the usda says grocers will have to decide for themselves what they want to disclose to their customers.

Video: [Link](#)

#### AP: Schools can choose 'pink slime' or no in beef

ALBANY, NY -- "Pink slime" just went from a simmer to a boil. In less than a week this month, the stomach-turning epithet for ammonia-treated ground beef filler suddenly became a potent rallying cry by activists fighting to ban the product from supermarket shelves and school lunch trays. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is set to announce Thursday it will offer schools choice in ground beef purchases in response to requests from districts. Though the term has been used pejoratively for at least several years, it wasn't until last week that social media suddenly exploded with worry and an online petition seeking its ouster from schools lit up, quickly garnering hundreds of thousands of supporters. "It sounds disgusting," said food policy expert Marion Nestle, who notes that the unappetizing nickname made it easier for the food movement to flex its muscles over this cause. "A lot of people have been writing about it. Therefore, more people know about it, therefore more people are queasy about it, particularly when you start thinking about how this stuff turns up in school lunches," said Nestle, a professor at New York University's Department of Nutrition, Food Studies and Public Health. The controversy centers on "lean finely textured beef," a low-cost ingredient in ground beef made from fatty bits of meat left over from other cuts. The bits are heated to about 100 F and spun to remove most of the fat. The lean mix then is compressed into blocks for use in ground meat. The product, made by South Dakota-based Beef Products Inc., also is exposed to "a puff of ammonium hydroxide gas" to kill bacteria, such as E. coli and salmonella.

There are no precise numbers on how prevalent the product is, and it does not have to be labeled as an ingredient. Past estimates have ranged as high as 70 percent; one industry official estimates it is in at least half of the ground meat and burgers in the United States.

It has been on the market for years, and federal regulators say it meets standards for food safety. But advocates for wholesome food have denounced the process as a potentially unsafe and unappetizing example of industrialized food production.

The phrase "pink slime," coined by a federal microbiologist, has appeared in the media at least since a critical 2009 New York Times report. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver has railed against it, and it made headlines after McDonald's and other major chains last year discontinued their use of ammonia-treated beef.

But "pink slime" outrage appeared to reach new heights last week amid reports by The Daily and ABC News. The Daily piece dealt with the USDA's purchase of meat that included "pink slime" for school lunches.

The story touched a nerve with Houston resident Bettina Siegel, whose blog "The Lunch Tray" focuses on kids' food. On March 6, she started an online petition on Change.org asking Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to "put an immediate end to the use of 'pink slime' in our children's school food."

"When I put it up, I had this moment of embarrassment," she said, "What if only 10 people sign this?"

No problem there. Supporters signed on fast. By Wednesday afternoon, the electronic petition had more than 220,000 signatures. Organizers of Change.org said the explosive growth is rare among the roughly 10,000 petitions started there every month.

Meanwhile, Google searches for "pink slime" spiked dramatically. It has become the food version of Joseph Kony, the rogue African warlord virtually unknown in the United States until this month, when an online video campaign against him caught fire.

But why is "pink slime" striking a chord now?

Issues can go from a simmer to an explosion when content with broad interest -- such as like food safety -- is picked up and disseminated by widely connected people, said Marc A. Smith, director of the Social Media Research Foundation. These people act like "broadcast hubs," dispersing the information to different communities.

"What's happening is that the channels whereby this flood can go down this hill have expanded," Smith said "The more there are things like Twitter, the easier it is for these powder kegs to explode."

In this case, Siegel thinks the added element of children's school lunches could have set off this round.

"That's what upset me. This idea that children are passively sitting in a lunch room eating what the government sees fit to feed them and McDonald's has chosen not to use it, but the government is still feeding it to them," she said. "That really got my ire."

The USDA -- which did not directly address Siegel's petition -- buys about a fifth of the food served in schools nationwide. The agency this year is contracted to buy 111.5 million pounds of ground beef for the National School Lunch Program. About 7 million pounds of that is from Beef Products Inc., though the pink product in question never accounts for more than 15 percent of a single serving of ground beef.

Under the change to be announced Thursday, schools will be able to choose between 95 percent lean beef patties made with the product or less lean bulk ground beef without it. The new policy won't affect ground beef at schools until this fall because of existing contracts, according to a USDA official with knowledge of the decision.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official announcement was not made yet, said that the agency believes the ammonia treatment is safe, but that it wanted to be transparent and that school districts wanted choices.

"School districts have made requests and school districts want, basically, choice," the official said. "And we respect that, they're our customers."

Beef Product Inc. stresses that its product is 100 percent lean beef and is approved by a series of industry experts. The company's new website, pinkslimeisamyth.com, rebuts some common criticisms of the product ("Myth 4 Boneless lean beef trimmings are produced from inedible meat").

The National Meat Association also has joined the fight, disputing claims that the product is made from "scraps destined for pet food" and other claims. The industry group also said that ammonium hydroxide is used in baked goods, puddings and other processed foods.

Association CEO Barry Carpenter, who has visited BPI plants and watched the process, said critics don't seem to have the facts.

"It's one of those things. It's the aesthetics of it that just gets people's attention," Carpenter said. "And in this case, it's not even legitimate aesthetics of it. It's a perception of what it is."

Proponents of the process stress that it is both federally regulated and safe. Though Nestle said the focus on safety misses the larger point.

"I'm not arguing that that stuff is unsafe," she said, "I'm arguing that it's the lowest common denominator."

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**Justin DeJong**  
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<http://www.usda.gov>

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---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 6:37 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OSEC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; (b) (6) - OSEC; Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Ramos, Adela - OSEC  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; DeJong, Justin - OC  
**Subject:** Release Clearance: LFTB release and materials

Team,

We are putting this release through a non-traditional clearance process given the sensitivities here and the need to contain this.

We recognize the need to make sure your Under Secretaries are aware but please keep as a very close hold and do not run through the usual layers.

I have also attached some additional documents for your review. We will most likely post these to agency sites and link to them.

NOTE: The FAQs will need some work from the agencies so please take a look at the questions that are within your portfolio and strengthen.

FEEDBACK DUE: 10am

**Aaron Lavallee**



Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.720.6959  
Cell: (b) (6)  
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Stay Connected with USDA:



Contact:  
USDA Office of Communications  
(202) 720-4623

## **USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year**

### ***USDA Affirms Safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef Product for Consumers***

WASHINGTON, March X, 2012 – In response to requests from school districts across the country, USDA today announced that it will offer more choices to schools in the National School Lunch Program when it comes to purchases of ground beef products containing Lean Finely Textured Beef. While USDA has no reason to question the safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef in purchases made for this school year, USDA will provide schools with a choice to order product either “with” or “without” Lean Finely Textured Beef options in the 2012-2013 school year. USDA continues to affirm the safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef product for consumers.

“USDA only purchases products for the school lunch program that we have confidence are safe, nutritious and affordable – including all products containing Lean Finely Textured Beef,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “In response to customer demand we will be adjusting our procurement specifications for the 2012-13 school year to allow for additional options in ground beef products.”

By law, USDA has two primary responsibilities as part of the agency’s mandate to provide safe and nutritious food to the American people. Through the Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA ensures that safety of the nation’s commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products. Through the Food and Nutrition Service and the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA provides food and nutrition assistance through several domestic programs, including the National School Lunch Program.

On average, schools in the National School Lunch Program purchase approximately 20 percent of their food through USDA, and approximately 80 percent of food served is purchased directly by schools or school districts through private vendors. Schools purchase food from the department through the [USDA Foods Program](#), which provides more than 180 nutritious food items that are fresh, frozen, packaged, canned, dried, or in bulk. USDA procures these products based on the demand from schools to help meet the menu planning needs, student taste preferences, school nutrition goals, and local wellness initiatives.

USDA ensures all food purchased for the National School Lunch Program must meet stringent food safety standards, which includes rigorous pathogen testing. Purchase specifications are continually reviewed, microbial test results are evaluated, new food safety technologies are considered, and food safety experts are consulted to determine the adequacy of our food safety requirements.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:11:22 AM

---

TALK TO U LATER

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:56 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: pink slime

Ammoniated beef.

Can change what and who

(b) (6) DVM  
FLS Plover Circuit  
920-257-8915  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov  
Sent from BlackBerry

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 06:39 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

What do u know about pink slime it was in tv also is ever possible to change a contact point

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Hulsey, Laura - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 3:40:12 PM

---

OK. The incident owner is Kat Tomaszewski with an email address of (b) (6) [@live.com](#).

Do I forward the entire incident to OPACE? Carol Blake is the Director. Send it to her? I know Chris Gould on her staff. I could send it to him.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:33 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime

Definitely send to OPACE. We and RIMD can help answer it but it needs to go through the Administrator's office.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:26 PM  
**To:** Hulsey, Laura - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

Hey...just pulled this one from askFSIS. Politically sensitive. Not sure I know the answers either. I can research the "safe for human consumption" question with FDA, New Technology, etc.

Any advice on answering this one? (b) (6)

Hello,

Recently in the media there has been an outbreak of information regarding the use ammonium hydroxide on beef trimmings to create "pink slime."

According to Beef Products, Inc. they use 10mg of man-made ammonium hydroxide to kill the E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria in their beef trimmings ("trimmings" are the pieces of lean meat and fat that are the result of taking larger pieces of meat and cutting them to meet customer specifications) along with the 30mg of naturally occurring ammonia in the beef itself.

How much ammonium hydroxide is safe for human consumption?

AND

What makes this ammonium hydroxide different from industrial and household cleaners?

Thanks in advance!

1. [REDACTED]  
2. [REDACTED]  
3. [REDACTED]  
4. [REDACTED]  
5. [REDACTED]  
6. [REDACTED]  
7. [REDACTED]  
8. [REDACTED]  
9. [REDACTED]  
10. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:51:00 PM

---

Diane, was there any further response from downtown? I haven't seen one..

(b) (6) let 's see also what numbers (b) (6) has been getting in her HL database on 'pink slime'— this is not really an 'ingredient' (rather a process)

'pink slime' is not an additive, it is something that's been used in the media recently, to describe an emulsion made with beef trimmings—

The ammonium hydroxide is harmless.

However, we do need to keep **referring to some talking points** we got from Dirk Filpot, we got—here they are:

“USDA is focused on reducing foodborne illness and ensuring that Americans have safe food to eat. Additionally, food served to our nation's schoolchildren must meet the highest standards for food safety and is subject to stringent testing before being allowed to enter schools. And that includes the beef product that has been the focus of recent news stories. Several government agencies – including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture – have studied thoroughly the use of ammonia hydroxide, which is different than household ammonia, and found that it is safe to use in foods and is effective in reducing foodborne pathogens, or bacteria that can be present in meats and make people ill. Ammonia hydroxide is used as a treatment during the production process, and it is chemically altered when infused into meat, leaving no measurable residue. Therefore, it does not pose a threat to humans. Given that it is harmless, and that it reduces the possibility of people getting ill from the beef they are consuming, the use of ammonia hydroxide is considered safe and suitable as part of the company's production process.”

I realized this topic it was placed under the category of 'additives' in the database,

However, if its' 'ammonium hydroxide' use they are referring to, then under the Directive 7120.1 it is stated that for such ingredient:

The labeling requirements are”: “None under the accepted conditions of use”

Here is the Directive 7120.1:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISDirectives/7120.1.pdf>

Diane, please add any comments,

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime

(b) (6)

It's official, the pink slime story has gone viral.

Once again, consumers outraged that it is not posted on the label. Not really talking about the ammonia, just the fact that it's not labeled on their ground beef.

Do we have any additional talking points?

(b) (6)

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854

or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Dunn, Ronnie - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:41:58 AM

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Notice of Investigation 12-0040

Here's the response to the question raised in the complaint. Is my email response sufficient or do you need the response placed on a letterhead memo/letter? If so, to whom? Thanks.

Response: Lean finely textured beef (LFTB) is a meat food product whereby heat and a mechanical process are applied to meat trimmings to reduce the fat content. Because the temperature does not exceed 107° F, the proteins are not denatured during the process. The product does not appear to have been heat treated and has similar performance characteristics as meat. LFTB typically contains at least 14 percent protein, no more than 10 percent fat, and has a protein efficiency ratio of 2.5 resulting in a product that is compositionally similar to beef. Therefore, FSIS determined that LFTB may be used and labeled as beef in the formulation of ground beef and other meat food products. Moreover, anhydrous ammonia may be applied to LFTB by a Federal establishment as a food safety intervention. Anhydrous ammonia reacts with the moisture in LFTB to form ammonium hydroxide, the active component. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) lists ammonium hydroxide as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) in Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), section 184.1139 for use in food with no limitation other than current good manufacturing practice ([Title 21: Food and Drugs](#)). Data showed that the use of anhydrous ammonia under these conditions of use only provided a momentary effect for the reduction of microorganisms and that there was no significant difference in appearance, texture, flavor, or overall acceptability between treated and untreated product. Therefore, FSIS determined that the use of anhydrous ammonia to treat LFTB was consistent with FDA's definition of a processing aid in 21 CFR 101.100(a)(3)(ii)(c), i.e., substances that are added to a food for their technical or functional effect in the processing but are present in the finished food at insignificant levels and do not have any technical or functional effect in that food. FSIS applies FDA's definition of a processing aid on a case by case basis as described in the following compliance policy guide posted on the Agency's website ([http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Determination\\_of\\_Processing\\_Aids.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Determination_of_Processing_Aids.pdf)). Because processing aids are exempt from labeling ammonium hydroxide is not listed on the label.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (b) (6) -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** Dunn, Ronnie - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 10:33 AM

To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Pink Slime

Hey C send me Engeljohn response to the OIG complaint.

*Ronnie N. Dunn*

Branch Chief

Investigations Branch

FSIS OPEER ICAD IB

504-589-3138 office

504-388-6350 BB

(b) (6) personal cell

(b) (6) [@cox.net](#) personal email



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:11:34 PM

---

Yes.....lots of pink slime again....remember when it was in the news about a year ago....

(b) (6) MS, VMD

PHV Staff Officer

USDA, FSIS, OPPD Policy Development Division

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Avenue Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5908

Phone (b) (6) Fax (402) 344-5007

*Policy is my passion.*

*Have you searched [askFSIS?](#)*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/is-pink-slime-in-the-beef-at-your-grocery-store/>

(b) (6)

USDA; FSIS; OPPD

Policy Development Division

Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Avenue, Suite 260

Omaha, NE

Office (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**To:** [Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Cc:** [Naessens, Katie - OSEC](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 4:50:55 PM

---

Thanks, David. This is very helpful information.

---

**From:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 4:32 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Here are copies of the letter of no objection and the fact sheet.

David

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 4:15 PM  
**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** Re: Pink Slime

Can you please just send a copy of the fact sheet, and if you have it the 2001 letter. We can get electronically or paper - whatever is easier for you.

Many thanks.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 02:03 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Hi (b) (6)

I have been trying to gather the pertinent information and think I have now located it. Let me know if you'd like me to send two documents: a 2001 letter of no objection to add the use of ammonium hydroxide to the Agency-approved process for producing lean finely textured beef (original approval in 1990); a recently updated fact sheet on ammonium hydroxide that reviews its safety, determination as a GRAS substance and its consideration as a processing aid (the Agency intends to post on our website).

I am happy to help in any further way,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:40 AM  
**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Hello Dr. Goldman,

Dr. (b) (6) was in Texas for two days to speak at Texas A & M, and while there she met with some former FSISers. The topic of pink slime came up.

We are sure that FSIS must have reviewed the product from a safety perspective at some time in the not too distant past. Can you let Dr. (b) (6) know when that review was done, and perhaps offer a short briefing? We made an inquiry to ARS about any research on it when all this brouhaha came up. They responded that they had not done research on the process, and we are not asking them for anything further on it.

Many thanks,

(b) (6)  
Special Assistant for Policy & Program Strategy  
USDA - Research, Education & Economics (REE)  
Room 320A Whitten Building, Washington, DC  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6)@osec.usda.gov



**From:** [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:56:47 PM

---

*GR this is from google search*

The controversial meat product known as boneless lean beef trimmings in its burgers.

The product was recently brought to the attention of the public by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver, who derisively referred to it as “pink slime” on an episode of [Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution](#),

These trimmings, which consist of what's left of the meat after all the choice cuts of beef are taken, are banned for human consumption in the U.K, where they are instead used for dog and chicken food. They are legal for consumption in the United States, however, where they are treated with ammonium hydroxide in order to kill off bacteria such as E. coli and make it safe for human consumption.

Beef Products Incorporated, the company that had previously supplied McDonald's with boneless lean beef trimmings, denied that Oliver's show had anything to do with decision, saying it was made long before the show aired and was based on BPI's inability to supply McDonald's on a global basis. BPI also pointed to its recent placement on [food safety advocate Bill Marler's nice list](#) and [numerous food safety awards](#) as evidence of its commitment to food safety.

So- if others discontinue this product and the School Lunch program uses it, I can see the uproar, however, not a NACMCF issue unless a questions specifically covers this as you have pointed out in your email.

Cheers!

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:50 PM  
**To:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime

(b) (6) is clarifying for me. It is quite the sensation in the press. Google, pink slim school lunch.....!

---

**From:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:49 PM

**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime

*May be this should go to FNS!*

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:24 PM  
**To:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

Our press office is asking me about pink slime and school lunch. I just googled pink slime.  
Have we heard a lot about this?

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office: 202-690-6600

Fax: 202-690-6364

E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:46:24 AM

---

Hey I am considered obese myself, I just keep telling myself I'm building the muscle under the fat...

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:45 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Hey watch it I'm Obese! I highly doubt it is 70% also & they are just like most who left USDA, (we know first hand) things are fine when they're drawing a paycheck every 2 weeks but now USDA is soooo wrong

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:41 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Yea, that's the first thing I thought of too. I have been researching PINKSLIME this morning, I have a lot of mixed feelings on this subject. Considering that it has been going on since 1972 and now they are making a big stink about it. I saw at the bottom in the commits someone stated "no wonder I'm obese", PPL like that are obese cause they can't control their intake of food and lack of exercise. I am wondering also why are these retired USDA FSIS scientist are now bringing this up.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Thanks I had not seen that, the best part was when they talked about the under secretary joining that company, and how ethically it's not legal now'

That reminded me of (b) (6) joining Cudlin's HAHA

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Just wondering if you have seen this in the news.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

(b) (6)

CSI-11C

USDA-FSIS OFD

Cudlin's Market

8 Cox Rd.

Newfield N.Y. 14867

(b) (6)

[\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:_____@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 12:54:05 PM

---

I agree. Wait till the social media assigns one of their activists to a plant that makes the stuff. Now that is pick slime. At least now it has to be labeled what it is mechanically separated turkey or chicken.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:44 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
(b) (6)  
FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

If I was going to call something pink slime it would be the mechanically separated meat put into the hot dogs!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
Dr. (b) (6)

[www.provisioneronline.com/articles/97797-a-disaster--a-shame---and-hopefully-a-lesson](http://www.provisioneronline.com/articles/97797-a-disaster--a-shame---and-hopefully-a-lesson)

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**From:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:53:29 PM

---

As I suspected, this is beyond the scope of the NACMCF charge. The press office has called me on this.

**Gerri**

---

**From:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:49 PM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime

*May be this should go to FNS!*

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:24 PM  
**To:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

Our press office is asking me about pink slime and school lunch. I just googled pink slime. Have we heard a lot about this?

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office: 202-690-6600

Fax: 202-690-6364

E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:49:38 AM

---

Thanks (b) (6). means a lot ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:12 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Thanks (b) (6)

It is so good to hear from you again!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Super on feeling much better. We just love ya lots!

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Hi Guys,

One of my inspectors sent me this article and I found it very informative. Enjoy ☺ Hope you are all doing well – I am feeling much better and just trying to get back into the swing of things.

Take Care,

(b) (6)

<< File: Pink slime 3.docx >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:17:52 AM

---

I heard about this last month but it didn't get much attention in the news.  
Solar shower today? That may mess up air travel and phones and who knows what else.

Inspector (b) (6)  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety Inspection Service  
Office of International Affairs  
Import Inspection Division  
(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 6:57 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

This was just on ABC at 630pm. USDA scientist, Whistle blower said there is pink Slime in our ground beef. Former under secretary Joan Smith is also linked to this.  
There was also a former USDA microbiologist also in this too.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 11:52:15 AM

---

Hi Diane,

I got another call from a food supplier in Austin, TX asking for a resource to send his buyers for questions about the Huffington Post "pink slime" article. He says his buyers are worried he is selling them "tainted" meat. His business does not comment or answer those type of questions so he's looking for another resource within the USDA. I referred him to the tech center.

Do we have the number for a resource within AMS yet?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:57 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Tuverson, Robert - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

As I indicated yesterday, we are beginning to get calls from angry parents of school age children that want to lodge complaints about the pink slime issue in school lunch. Is there a contact in AMS that we can refer these callers to? Also any additional talking points that you can share would be good.

Diane Van  
Deputy Director, Food Safety Education Staff

Office of Public Affairs & Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service  
5601 Sunnyside Ave., 2-L292  
Beltsville, MD 20705

Device Type	Percentage
Smartphone	85%
Tablet	25%
Smartwatch	10%
Smart TV	5%

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:14:10 AM

---

Gracias, mi amiga!!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:12 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

2155 Winter Ridge Drive

Traverse City, MI 49686

Thanks (b) (6) ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:11 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

(b) (6) I need to send you something from us guys...it is informative too. But, I need your mailing address. I am glad you are doing well.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Hi Guys,

One of my inspectors sent me this article and I found it very informative. Enjoy ☺ Hope you are all doing well – I am feeling much better and just trying to get back into the swing of things.

Take Care,

(b) (6)

<< File: Pink slime 3.docx >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:30:03 AM

---

That's always a good time!!

(b) (6)  
Program Auditor  
Federal/State Audit Branch  
USDA/FSIS/OPEER  
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building, Suite 260  
1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102-5908  
(b) (6) Fax (402) 344-5104  
e-mail: kristopher.kenne@fsis.usda.gov

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 8:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Sounds like Gerald Zirnstien and Carl Custer have had enough with keeping quiet about the BPI product from the news article i read on ABC last night. Off to the driving course today.

(b) (6)  
Program Auditor  
USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch  
Edward Zorinsky Federal Building  
1616 Capitol Ave, Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5980  
(b) (6) (402) 344-5104 (Fax)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:26:05 PM

---

Cool. Sounds good. I'll keep it in mind. Last she told me, (b) (6) has to work that weekend, but probably could do dinner or something like that. Keep me posted on what your guys' plans end up being while in town.

(b) (6), DVM, PHV

USDA, FSIS

Grand Rapids Circuit

West Michigan Beef

3007 Van Buren St.

Hudsonville, MI 49426

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Going to be in GR Easter weekend...maybe we can get together for dinner or something (b) (6) and (b) (6) too ☺).

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:37 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) id - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Glad to hear you're back in action! I was going to give you a shout after work today to check in on things.

Good info on the Pink Slime, our DDM was at our WUM yesterday and my FLS (can I use any more acronyms in one sentence?!?) brought up the topic of Pink Slime to get his explanation. He basically reiterated everything in that article (other than the comments at the end). He also made the point that it's the meat industry and not the USDA's job to endorse and educate the public about their products. The USDA is to remain neutral as this is more of a quality concern rather than a food safety concern. He expects if things continue with companies dropping products containing the LFTB, prices on ground beef will go up and you'll pay a lot closer to the primal cut of that product at the store/restaurants



which the public probably won't like. I personally wouldn't mind paying more as long as I knew I was truly eating ground sirloin to know I was getting what I was paying for. Our DDM also mentioned that the main company BPI has something like 5 or 6 facilities and are closing 4 meaning they are laying off several hundred employees. Something to think about, I suppose. I believe Cargill does this process, also, but on a much smaller scale than what BPI was specializing in.

(b) (6), DVM, PHV

USDA, FSIS

Grand Rapids Circuit

West Michigan Beef

3007 Van Buren St.

Hudsonville, MI 49426

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Hi Guys,

One of my inspectors sent me this article and I found it very informative. Enjoy 😊 Hope you are all doing well – I am feeling much better and just trying to get back into the swing of things.

Take Care,

(b) (6)

<< File: Pink slime 3.docx >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:48:09 PM

---

Not me...pink slime eh? I need to look that up...

M. (b) (6), M.S.

Staff Officer - Biologist

USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service

Office of Public Health Science

Microbiology Division

Stop 3777, PP 3, Room 9-210B

1400 Independence Avenue SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 690-6364

E-Mail: (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

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---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:24 PM  
**To:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

Our press office is asking me about pink slime and school lunch. I just googled pink slime.  
Have we heard a lot about this?

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office: 202-690-6600

Fax: 202-690-6364

E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** [Schwarz, Lisa - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:00:17 PM

---

Interesting!!!!

(b) (6)  
Assistant STG Coordinator  
NC Department of Public Safety  
Division of Adult Correction  
831 W. Morgan St.  
Raleigh, NC 27699  
Work-(b) (6)  
Fax-919-733-8272  
E-mail- (b) (6) [@ncdps.gov](#)  
[www.ncdps.gov](#)

---

**From:** Schwarz, Lisa - FSIS [Lisa.Schwarz@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

<http://technorati.com/women/article/pink-slime-is-pulled-from-grocery/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink\\_slime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink_slime)

Although in the collegial world, we are taught not to use wiki for knowledge based information or research. It was the only site that broke it down to barney level. My boss explained it this way too me today, the way wiki did.

Just an FYI

*Lisa M. Schwarz*  
*Administrative Assistant I*  
*Head Quarters*  
*MPID, NC Dept of Agric. and CS*  
*Office 919-733-0167*  
*Fax 919-715-0182*

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---

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 4:23:05 PM

---

Diane

This is just an FYI –

I was looking at this video --from the “how it’s made” YouTube link --showing how hot dogs are made—

When viewing it, one will certainly see a ‘pink’ looking slurry but it’s not called ‘slime’ rather an **‘emulsion’**...

I know it’s not about ground beef, rather about franks, but ‘frankly’ speaking some education is needed in proper terminology used in the food processing sector –

I know this video cannot be used by us, however, something similar may need to be searched possibly in our ‘archives’ (CFL possibly)?

Anyway, when watching this I thought of how **similar the emulsion looks like, if not exactly like, the ‘pink slime’** being referred recently.

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:57 PM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Tuverson, Robert - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

As I indicated yesterday, we are beginning to get calls from angry parents of school age children that want to lodge complaints about the pink slime issue in school lunch. Is there a contact in AMS that we can refer these callers to? Also any additional talking points that you can share would be good.

Diane Van  
Deputy Director, Food Safety Education Staff

Office of Public Affairs & Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service  
5601 Sunnyside Ave., 2-L292  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301-344-4777 Phone  
301-504-0203 Fax  
202-306-3857 Blackberry

**From:** (b) (6) - [Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 11:12:16 PM

---

Okay, Thanks

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 24, 2012 7:38 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Good morning (b) (6)

Just an FYI

With all the issue in the news over "PINK SLIME" Boneless lean beef..Mr. (b) (6) at Jensen Meat co. Informed me that it is effecting their business.. Some of their customers (about half) have request to eliminate this ingredient from their product, and as he put it he is waiting on the other half to drop he said it is about (b) (4) lbs of this product they use from BPI & IBP so he will be looking at reassessment.

We will be discussing this at our next weekly meeting when Mr. (b) (6) has more info.

(b) (6)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:32:31 AM

---

Diane, I just sent an e-mail to Dirk Filpot inquiring about latest key points, as related to 'pink slime'

Suggested by (b) (6)

Should I also call him or other contact, as a follow up?

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:31 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

(b) (6)

Have contacted downtown to see if they have any talking points for the Hotline on the pink slime? I heard it on the news last night.

Diane Van  
Deputy Director, Food Safety Education Staff

Office of Public Affairs & Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service  
5601 Sunnyside Ave., 2-L292  
Beltsville, MD 20705

Device Type	Percentage
Smartphone	85%
Tablet	45%
Smartwatch	15%
Smart TV	10%

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:40:16 AM

---

If people watched hog casings being cleaned, rope sausage sales would plummet. Looks is 99% of the winning solution.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

You can't win. A safe product is a problem because it looks 'unappetizing'.

A dead animal looks unappetizing too. Let's hope that they don't find out that is where the meat comes from.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 7:50 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Good Article on facts. << File: PinkSlimeArticle.mht >>

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** [Schwarz, Lisa - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:26:13 PM

---

*Yea*

(b) (6)  
*Administrative Secretary III*  
*N. C. Department of Public Safety*  
*Prisons - Deputy Director's Office*  
*831 W. Morgan Street / MSC 4261*  
*Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4261*  
**Te:** (b) (6)  
**Fax:** 919-733-8272  
**E-Mail:** (b) (6) [@ncdps.gov](#)  
[www.ncdps.gov](#)

---

**From:** Schwarz, Lisa - FSIS [Lisa.Schwarz@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

It is leaner than what is sold as lean and cleaner. By that I mean more pathogens (bacteria) are removed. If you eat bologna (which has everything process together) than you can eat this and its better for you. It's nothing but beef. Unless you only eat kosher, than that means you are only eating certain cuts of meat from certain parts of an animal. Make sense?

---

**From:** (b) (6) [@ncdps.gov](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:57 AM  
**To:** Schwarz, Lisa - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

*Sounds Gross*

(b) (6)  
*Administrative Secretary III*  
*N. C. Department of Public Safety*

*Prisons - Deputy Director's Office*  
*831 W. Morgan Street / MSC 4261*  
*Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4261*  
*Te: (b) (6)*  
*Fax: 919-733-8272*  
*E-Mail: (b) (6) @ncdps.gov*  
*[www.ncdps.gov](http://www.ncdps.gov)*

---

**From:** Schwarz, Lisa - FSIS [Lisa.Schwarz@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

<http://technorati.com/women/article/pink-slime-is-pulled-from-grocery/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink\\_slime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink_slime)

Although in the collegial world, we are taught not to use wiki for knowledge based information or research. It was the only site that broke it down to barney level. My boss explained it this way too me today, the way wiki did.

Just an FYI

*Lisa M. Schwarz*  
*Administrative Assistant I*  
*Head Quarters*  
*MPID, NC Dept of Agric. and CS*  
*Office 919-733-0167*  
*Fax 919-715-0182*

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) (DO15) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:11:11 PM

---

Probably news media. If you had seen the product, you may agree. This is lean finely textured beef. The good news is that Delta probably does not use this ingredient.

**Dr. (b) (6), FLS Boise Circuit**

**1038 W. Loon St.**

**Meridian, Idaho, 83642**

**Home (b) (6)**

**Cell (b) (6)**

**Fax 208-288-4280**

---

**From:** Parker, Julie - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:36 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) (DO15) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Do I have the only plant getting calls regarding "Pink Slime"? I don't know who came up with that term but they need a good slap upside the head!! There are numerous calls come into the plant every day now since this nonsense was reported. I think I may need an anger management class just until this issue is out of the public eye!! What a slap in the face to inspectors.

*Julie Parker*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:56:07 AM

---

Ammoniated beef.

Can change what and who

(b) (6) DVM  
FLS Plover Circuit  
920-257-8915  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov  
Sent from BlackBerry

---

**From:** (b) (6) FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 06:39 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

What do u know about pink slime it was in tv also is ever possible to change a contact point

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 9:33:42 AM

---

Yes

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 07:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime

Did U get article, 3 columns in the article

(b) (6), FSIS

**General Mills est. 05538**

**One Red Devil Road**

**Hannibal, Mo. 63401**

**USDA phone # (b) (6)**



**From:** [Merle Evans](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:53:45 PM

---

Thanks it's just gross as ways we are fine but it has turned chilly here for the last 2 days of course we have not really had any winter anyway so things are greening up around here We have sold the house and are thinking of building a smaller one just a few miles away but we are still talking it over

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 9, 2012, at 1:24 PM, "(b) (6) - FSIS" <(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov> wrote:

> Are you kidding?? It is the BPI finely textured beef that is treated with ammonia. Let's see, (b) (6) were about the 50th people from DC to go see the stuff, and (b) (6) said it went in white and came out red. It's pretty much fat with a little lean, that is heated, centrifuged and becomes finely textured beef or beef. YUCK. (b) (6) at Olson, Frank and Weeda were all involved (that god Jeff is involved and not me). (b) (4)

!!!!

>

> Sally

>

> PS How are things in Texas? It has been a very warm winter, it's in the 80's again today. That is ok, better this than ice.

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Merle Evans [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@gmail.com](mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com)]

> Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 2:10 PM

> To: (b) (6) - FSIS

> Subject: Pink slime

>

> Hi Sally,

> What is this "pink slime" I'm hearing about in ground beef? Do you know anything about it?

> Thanks

>

> Sent from my iPhone

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>

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**To:** [Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** Re: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 4:14:33 PM

---

Can you please just send a copy of the fact sheet, and if you have it the 2001 letter. We can get electronically or paper - whatever is easier for you.

Many thanks.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 02:03 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Hi (b) (6)

I have been trying to gather the pertinent information and think I have now located it. Let me know if you'd like me to send two documents: a 2001 letter of no objection to add the use of ammonium hydroxide to the Agency-approved process for producing lean finely textured beef (original approval in 1990); a recently updated fact sheet on ammonium hydroxide that reviews its safety, determination as a GRAS substance and its consideration as a processing aid (the Agency intends to post on our website).

I am happy to help in any further way,

David

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:40 AM  
**To:** Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Hello Dr. Goldman,

Dr. (b) (6) was in Texas for two days to speak at Texas A & M, and while there she met with some former FSISers. The topic of pink slime came up.

We are sure that FSIS must have reviewed the product from a safety perspective at some time in the not too distant past. Can you let Dr. (b) (6) know when that review was done, and perhaps offer a short briefing? We made an inquiry to ARS about any research on it when all this brouhaha came up. They responded that they had not done research on the process, and we are not asking

them for anything further on it.

Many thanks,

(b) (6)

Special Assistant for Policy & Program Strategy  
USDA - Research, Education & Economics (REE)  
Room 320A Whitten Building, Washington, DC

(b) (6)

(b) (6) @osec.usda.gov



**From:** [Raber Packing Co](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:18:32 AM

---

(b) (6) I can not open this file. Can you send it in a word program?

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>  
**To:** (raberpacking@comcast.net) <raberpacking@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thu, 15 Mar 2012 15:08:03 -0000 (UTC)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:17:09 AM

---

All

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 07:52 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Who's ground beef? What establishment?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 6:57 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

This was just on ABC at 630pm. USDA scientist, Whistle blower said there is pink Slime in our ground beef. Former under secretary Joan Smith is also linked to this. There was also a former USDA microbiologist also in this too.

**From:** [Loida Rivera](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 2:19:37 PM

---

Not bad! You should see the hyenas and buzzards eating out of carcass in Africa. That my dear, I've seen it and it's worse than pink slime! And your ancestors 2-3 million years ago ate exactly that!!!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS" (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov>  
**To:** Loida Rivera (b) (6) @yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 12:14 PM  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Aquí tienes para que te entrtegas.

(b) (6) , *Ph.D.*  
*Public Health Regional Training Coordinator*  
*Neal Smith Federal Building*  
*210 Walnut Street, Room 985*  
*Des Moines, IA 50309*  
*Tel (b) (6)*

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**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink SLime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 7:19:28 AM

---

True. Putting the ammonia controversy aside though, I don't see the issue with ftb. If you can throw fatty trimmings with only 12 percent lean in ground beef why can't you reduce the fat on them first by applying a little heat and centrifuge. I guess its just consumers don't know. I think they expect that premium cuts of beef are only used.

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 06:12 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink SLime

Yeah, but I'm guessing this is the worst that can be used and consumers never know about it, and it is in "ground beef" a sacred product that everyone eats.

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 7:11 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink SLime

I am watching the jamie oliver video on my blackberry on way in. He is pretty clever. To simulate process for audience he throws fatty trimmings in a household dryer on stage which applies the heat and acts as a centrifuge.

I was rhinking yesterday. There are other products, e.g., partially defatted chopped beef. It can be labeled as beef in certain products. Had a chili label yesterday with it.

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 06:04 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink SLime

No problem. Some of them I have just marking as solved because they are just coimmenting and not asking a specific question. Interesting reading.

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 06:01 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink SLime

Sorry, I reassigned you the pink slime question☺

(b) (6) Senior Technical Advisor  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

**Phone** (b) (6) **Fax**(202) 245-4792

1400 Independence Ave., S.W. - Stop 3784  
Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor Room 8-161A  
Washington, DC 20250

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

**Please include your name and/or company name, phone number and complete e-mail address so that we may promptly reply to your inquiries.**

FSIS, Labeling and Program Delivery Division

**Website:** <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/larc/index.htm>

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**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: PINK SLIME  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:46:24 AM

---

NIH symposium on dietary sodium-recommendations, evidence, challenges, and applications for clinical guidance. FDA, CNPP, ARS all here presenting. Going to be 175 people in attendance.

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 06:25 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: PINK SLIME

Yes, good luck on your presentation! I am sure you will do well. What is the name of the conference again?

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:31 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: PINK SLIME

Good luck, yes, I bet you will get that question. Bet Dan will be asking again. Can you imagine if they heard of that other stuff, the dissolved in acid and re precipitated in base JUNK. That is worse.

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:28 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: PINK SLIME

Heading to NIH to speak on Na. Told (b) (6) I probably only get one question, can you tell me about pink slime? I will answer when I get home the askfsis  
Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD

Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 05:23 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** PINK SLIME

Oh brother, our local news had it on and so did ABC news, BPI and pink slime. The questions are already in AskFSIS☺ Sorry Jeff.

(b) (6) Senior Technical Advisor  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

**Phone** (b) (6) **Fax**(202) 245-4792

1400 Independence Ave., S.W. - Stop 3784  
Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor Room 8-161A  
Washington, DC 20250

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<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

**Please include your name and/or company name, phone number and complete e-mail address so that we may promptly reply to your inquiries.**

FSIS, Labeling and Program Delivery Division

**Website:** <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/larc/index.htm>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 5:27:58 PM

---

I used the word organic because if they purchase organic meat and it is labeled as such, that is a guarantee that pink slime is not in the product and all consumers know the safety in that specific label. Otherwise, they can search the web or ask FSIS.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime

What does this have to do with organic? They're just asking if there is such a thing as a letter that would say there is no pink slime in their ground beef.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 3:28 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime

They should Ask FSIS, however all organic produced product is labeled as such and establishments cannot add anything to the product.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: pink slime

This goes with my previous e-mail. Plants want to know if they can get something in writing stating that they do not use pink slime in their ground beef.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:19 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector  
USDA, FSIS, OFC

Hartford, Connecticut  
[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:35:52 AM

---

One of the guys a FM yesterday gave me an article on it and asked me about it.

---

**From:** (b) (6) FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/?rss=rss-wabc-snippet-7091254>

Well here we go again!

Next week's problem!

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector - Relief

Duty Station:

Damn Good Foods Inc.

312 A North Hudson Ave.

Stillwater, NY 12170

Cell (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 6:28:55 AM

---

The last of the old Myrtle Ave inhabitants thank god for gentrification.

(b) (6)

*Brooklyn, New York*

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:14 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime

That and countless other "ingredients" deemed edible by us. Things are cheap for a reason. Have you ever hung out on Myrtle? I went across the street to buy smokes and talk about ghetto.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

Talking about Pink Slime, I wonder if any of the people all worked up about it ever saw some of the dumpling fillings? But I bet they love dumplings, because they are so "authentic" and exotic and so definitely not American.

(b) (6)

*Brooklyn, New York*

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message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: RE: pink slime  
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:25:32 PM

---

That's ok. If you can't lie to your friend, then who can you lie to. That's what we are for.  
Haha.

Well and let's not forget the stuff they do to chicken. Nuggets in the grocery store. MD is going to have a heck of a time. It is not going to stop here. I bet this is just the beginning of a full on food processing investigation. What a waste of time. There is nothing the matter with the food, I am thinking. I like all that stuff that is made with it. I don't think I will be growing a third arm. I hope not. All though a third arm would be more beneficial. I could do more work at my job and I would love that. Or I could use it to hold my head up while I sleep. Many things to use it for. I could smoke, drink and drive. What could be wrong!

(b) (6), IIC, CSI

BOISE CIRCUIT

(b) (6)

I AM NOT YOUR ROLLING WHEELS, I AM THE HIGHWAY, I AM NOT YOUR  
CARPET RIDE, I AM THE SKY, I AM NOT YOUR BLOWING WIND, I AM THE  
LIGHTNING, I AM NOT YOUR AUTUMN MOON, I AM THE NIGHT.

AUDIOSLAVE

REAL EYES, REALIZE, REAL LIES

UKN

NEVER MAKE SOMEONE A PRIORITY WHEN YOU ARE ONLY AN OPTION  
FOR THEM.

UKN

A LIE CAN MAKE IT HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD BEFORE TRUTH HAS  
TIME TO PUT IT'S PANTS ON.

WINSTON CHURCHILL



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:00 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

I lied to you when I said SSI was done with the Lean Beef tissue (pink slime) –they are using what they have left in raw meatloaf (cracker barrel) and a little in AMPM cooked beef patties. When their inventory is gone that should be the end of it - unless something changes and a customer decides they want to use it. They are not using it in any raw beef patties.

The public has no idea how many products it is in – still a market for it as long as the consumer doesn't find out it's in there –ha!

(b) (6)

*Consumer Safety Inspector*

*SSI Food Service*

*Wilder, ID.*

(b) (6)

**From:** [McKean, Jennifer - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Davis, Gary - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:40:48 PM

---

I didn't know him personally, just remembered the name. Interesting...

Jennifer Beasley-McKean, DVM

District Manager

Dallas District Office

1100 Commerce Street Rm 516

Dallas, TX 75242

(214) 767-1253

---

**From:** Davis, Gary - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:26 PM  
**To:** McKean, Jennifer - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

Did you happen to notice who the former FSIS employee was who stated on national news that pink slime is not meat, and is a filler. It was Gerald Zernstein, who was moved around from policy to OPHS to OIA because he couldn't perform at the expected level of technical expertise. He never told them what kind of filler. It was sensational journalism at its best, he stated what they wanted him to without any questioning.

Gary A. Davis

Deputy District Manager

Dallas District Office

Phone: 214-767-9116

Fax: 214-767-8230

E-mail: [gary.davis@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gary.davis@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:04:08 PM

---

Yeah, I read those yesterday.

(b) (6)

*Training Supervisor/EIAO*

*MPID, NC Dept of Agric. and CS*

*office of* (b) (6)

*cell* (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink slime

When you click on this site, scroll down and click on the foot notes. There are a couple of good interviews with Dr. (b) (6). Thanks,

(b) (6)

TA Coordinator/Case Specialist

NCDA&CS

Meat & Poultry Inspection Division

1001 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699

(b) (6) Office

(b) (6) Cell

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Schwarz, Lisa - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:42 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink\\_slime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink_slime)

Found this, It appears to break down what you were explaining earlier. Most people that are computer friendly will hit Wikipedia for answers quicker than most resources available.

*Lisa M. Schwarz*

*Administrative Assistant I*

*Head Quarters*

*MPID, NC Dept of Agric. and CS*

*Office 919-733-0167*

*Fax 919-715-0182*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 4:02:38 PM

---

Thanks god!!! I just had a chicken nugget from McDonalds ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 1:01 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
- FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime

No, McDonalds suppose stop using it in their hamburgers several months ago. It is a big consumer issue now due to extensive media coverage. Just in case people want to talk to you about it.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 12:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
- FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime

Is this the same ingredients to make chicken nuggets at Mc Donald's?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 12:45 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
- FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime

Hi Team & Future Team Members,

Here is what "pink slime" look like in case you are interested. Article found in [www.theblaze.com](http://www.theblaze.com) titled USDA Buys...

(b) (6)

Today, many parents will be questioning the wisdom of a government-controlled school lunch program. Why? Because the Feds have announced that the USDA is buying seven million pounds of something that is affectionately known as "pink slime."

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 4:05:23 PM

---

I'm sorry –it's hard when we got irate callers.. especially when it's quite a few of them...It's challenging!

Question: if the labeling requirements are 'none' (as applied by FSIS to ammonium hydroxide) how would even USDA know without more detailed information? It would not be on the label, so you would need at least lab analysis or knowing the process at the plant first-hand (?)

We'll have to see what Diane may have for us...for now anyway.

I do think that consumers need to be educated about the term 'pink slime' as I was discussing earlier in the HL area—

"pink slime" indicates practically 'spoiled food' or food 'not fit for consumption' which then would be unsafe (most likely a violation of sorts to produce such a product, though PDD officers can clarify more here—basically it would be 'Non-suitable' for use or consumption—if that was the case all these meats would need to be recalled, and potentially to be destroyed. The Directive however, says that ingredients, such as ammonium hydroxide are allowed by FSIS-USDA to be used in the process.

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:56 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Pink slime

Yes, (b) (6) I understand what it is, but I have had some pretty irate people today. They think this is something brand new that USDA has approved. And (like the Butterball Halal problem) they want to know if they are buying a product that has “pink slime” in it.

(b) (6)

*Food Safety Specialist*

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2-L248C, MS- 5269

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6)

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or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:51 PM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Pink slime

Diane, was there any further response from downtown? I haven't seen one..

(b) (6) let 's see also what numbers Tina has been getting in her HL database on 'pink slime'— this is not really an 'ingredient' (rather a process)

'pink slime' is not an additive, it is something that's been used in the media recently, to describe an emulsion made with beef trimmings—

The ammonium hydroxide is harmless.

However, we do need to keep **referring to some talking points** we got from Dirk Filpot, we got—here they are:

“USDA is focused on reducing foodborne illness and ensuring that Americans have safe food to eat. Additionally, food served to our nation's schoolchildren must meet the highest standards for food safety and is subject to stringent testing before being allowed to enter schools. And that includes the beef product that has been the focus of recent news stories. Several government agencies – including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture – have studied thoroughly the use of ammonia hydroxide, which is different than household ammonia, and found that it is safe to use in foods and is effective in reducing foodborne pathogens, or bacteria that can be present in meats and make people ill. Ammonia hydroxide is used as a treatment during the production process, and it is chemically altered when infused into meat, leaving no measurable residue. Therefore, it does

not pose a threat to humans. Given that it is harmless, and that it reduces the possibility of people getting ill from the beef they are consuming, the use of ammonia hydroxide is considered safe and suitable as part of the company's production process."

I realized this topic it was placed under the category of 'additives' in the database,

However, if its' 'ammonium hydroxide' use they are referring to, then under the Directive 7120.1 it is stated that for such ingredient:

The labeling requirements are": "None under the accepted conditions of use"

Here is the Directive 7120.1:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISDirectives/7120.1.pdf>

Diane, please add any comments,

Thank you,

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 3:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime

(b) (6)

It's official, the pink slime story has gone viral.

Once again, consumers outraged that it is not posted on the label. Not really talking about



the ammonia, just the fact that it's not labeled on their ground beef.

Do we have any additional talking points?

(b) (6)

)

*Food Safety Specialist*

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2-L248C, MS- 5269

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6)

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or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:52:43 PM

---

I'll check it out on home computer. Guys like him would give us job security. Put a twist on it!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Well ammonia hydroxide that is used in the process doesn't sound appetizing. But I just wanted you to listen to how this Jamie Oliver ripped on USDA. Like we don't care what goes into food.

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector

Akron, OH

Office: (b) (6)

Cell : (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Had a hard time trying to bring the video up, but I have been deposed by family and friends enough about "pink slime" that I can probably give my opinion on it. Do I think it's safe? Yes. Do I think someone is trying to scare the public by calling it "pink slime"? Yes. One of the whistle blowers was a trainer of mine way back when. Carl Custer. I think it's just another way for industry to extend their inventory and make a buck. I wish it doesn't have to come to this, but it's industry at its best and reality. I don't allow neither of my kids to consume beef/hamburgers. Their little immune systems are not match for tainted product. So, I'm not worried about it. I hear there may be a directive coming out soon on it. Stay tuned!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:40 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime

What do you think?

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector

Akron, OH

Office: (b) (6)

Cell : (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wshlnRWnf30>

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector

Akron, OH

Office: (b) (6)

Cell : (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 3:45:45 PM

---

Or if we charge OT when a plant is over 8 hours.....

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Well ammonia hydroxide that is used in the process doesn't sound appetizing. But I just wanted you to listen to how this Jamie Oliver ripped on USDA. Like we don't care what goes into food.

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector

Akron, OH

Office: (b) (6)

Cell : (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:55:32 AM

---

I'll forward you a few things I've found...

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 6:11 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

OK, I have had about 20 people ask me in the last 2 days about this "Pink Slime" that USDA has given the thumbs up and can be mixed in with beef products at the grinding stage. Apparently there is ammonia in it and nothing has to be claimed on the label. Do you know anything about this? I checked USDA's homepage and there is nothing about it there. When I did a search, I found many complaints about it from organizations but nothing that states exactly what it is and how it's being used.

Any info would be great so I can pass it along.....

Thanks..

(b) (6)

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This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Ramzan, Mahmood - FSIS](#)  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:49:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Consumer pressure works.

(b) (6), *Ph.D.*

Case Specialist

USDA / FSIS / OFO

5601 Sunnyside Avenue Suite 1-2284D

Beltsville, MD 20705

Tel: (b) (6)

BB: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Ramzan, Mahmood - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:55 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

NSLP to offer choice on some products: LFTB, or no LFTB

By [Lisa M. Keefe](#) on 3/15/2012

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service is expected to announce today — perhaps as early as 1 p.m. EST — that it will begin identifying products offered through the National School Lunch Program that contain lean finely textured beef and, where possible, offer variations that do not include LFTB, sources told **Meatingplace**.



For example, schools will be able to choose between ordering bulk ground beef without LFTB or formed patties that include the product.

The decision has not been officially announced, but was leaked to *The Associated Press* and widely reported earlier today. Rich Jochum, spokesman for North Sioux City, S.D.-based Beef Products Inc., which supplies LFTB to the school lunch program, told **Meatingplace** that the company will have an official response when the USDA's announcement is made official later today.

How AMS's decision will be implemented through the NSLP system is as yet unclear. The program is a complicated tangle of individual arrangements with each school district, implemented through a series of suppliers and distributors, and purchases typically are locked in months in advance. However, schools are under pressure from parents and others to ensure that LFTB is not part of students' lunches, and are in turn pressuring AMS.

***Mahmood Ramzan DVM***

**Deputy District Manager**

**USDA/ Food Safety and Inspection Service**

**Beltsville District**

5601 Sunnyside Ave Suite I-2288

Beltsville, MD 20705

Tel: 301-504-2136

Cell:301-523-2440

email: [mahmood.ramzan@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:mahmood.ramzan@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - [APHIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:24:06 AM

---

Thanks so much, (b) (6)—have a good day!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:23 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - APHIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Sorry – I didn't completely answer your question: Yes, we have language developed and can respond directly to this one. Thanks!

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - APHIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:16 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Thanks, (b) (6)—do I take your message to mean that you'll respond directly to this person? If you don't want to, we can certainly use the language you've developed and take care of it!

(b) (6)  
(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - APHIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Hi (b) (6) – yes we do, and we are receiving several dozen e-mails along these lines. Thanks,



(b) (6)

Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW - Room 1162-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods  
**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

**From:** (b) (6) - APHIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime

Good morning, (b) (6)—hope all is going well with you! Please see the e-mail chain below—obviously this came to us by mistake. Do you folks have any language to address the question, or do you know where I can obtain language? Thanks so much!!!

(b) (6)

On Mar 8, 2012, at 8:51 PM, "(b) (6)" - APHIS"  
(b) (6) [@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@aphis.usda.gov)> wrote:

What do I do with this?

Begin forwarded message:

Dear Ms. (b) (6)

Is the BEEF PRODUCTS  
Company additive commonly  
known as "pink slime" still being  
added to ground beef in the US?

Thanks,

Ed Taylor  
Brevard, NC

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink SLime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 7:21:49 AM

---

Yeah, that is right. But I think it is also what it looks like, it looks like pink play doh, not ground meat. I couldn't get the Youtube to work. But I have seen his one on the chicken nuggets before ( he throws parts into a cuisinart and grinds them all up) well, most nuggets are JUNK.

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 7:19 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink SLime

True. Putting the ammonia controversy aside though, I don't see the issue with ftb. If you can throw fatty trimmings with only 12 percent lean in ground beef why can't you reduce the fat on them first by applying a little heat and centrifuge. I guess its just consumers don't know. I think they expect that premium cuts of beef are only used.

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 06:12 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink SLime

Yeah, but I'm guessing this is the worst that can be used and consumers never know about it, and it is in "ground beef" a sacred product that everyone eats.

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 7:11 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink SLime

I am watching the jamie oliver video on my blackberry on way in. He is pretty clever. To simulate process for audience he throws fatty trimmings in a household dryer on stage which applies the heat and acts as a centrifuge.

I was rinking yesterday. There are other products, e.g., partially defatted chopped beef. It can be labeled as beef in certain products. Had a chili label yesterday with it.

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division

USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 06:04 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink SLime

No problem. Some of them I have just marking as solved because they are just coimmenting and not asking a specific question. Interesting reading.

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 06:01 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink SLime

Sorry, I reassigned you the pink slime question☺

(b) (6) Senior Technical Advisor  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

**Phone** (b) (6) **Fax**(202) 245-4792

1400 Independence Ave., S.W. - Stop 3784  
Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor Room 8-161A  
Washington, DC 20250

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<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

**Please include your name and/or company name, phone number and complete e-mail address so that we may promptly reply to your inquires.**

FSIS, Labeling and Program Delivery Division

**Website:** <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/larc/index.htm>

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**From:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: PINK SLIME  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:51:53 AM

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Thanks. I hope you are almost done. Let me know how you did.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:46 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: PINK SLIME

NIH symposium an dietary sodium-recommendations, evidence, challenges, and applications for clinical guidance. Fda, cnp, ars all here presenting. Going to be 175 people in attendance.

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD

Deputy Director

Labeling and Program Delivery Division

USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 06:25 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: PINK SLIME

Yes, good luck on your presentation! I am sure you will do well. What is the name of the conference again?

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

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Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:31 AM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: PINK SLIME

Good luck, yes, I bet you will get that question. Bet Dan will be asking again. Can you imagine if they heard of that other stuff, the dissolved in acid and re precipitated in base JUNK. That is worse.

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 6:28 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: PINK SLIME

Heading ti nih to speak on Na. Told (b) (6) I probably only get one question, can you tell me about pink slime? I will answer when I get home the askfsis

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD

Deputy Director

Labeling and Program Delivery Division

USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 05:23 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** PINK SLIME

Oh brother, our local news had it on and so did ABC news, BPI and pink slime. The questions are already in AskFSIS☺ Sorry Jeff.

(b) (6) Senior Technical Advisor  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

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Patriots Plaza 3, 8th Floor Room 8-161A  
Washington, DC 20250

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<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Please include your name and/or company name, phone number and complete e-mail address so that we may promptly reply to your inquiries.

FSIS, Labeling and Program Delivery Division

**Website:** <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/larc/index.htm>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Shaw, William - FSIS](#) (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Plain Language Fact Sheets - Project plan (DRAFT) and progress update  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 14, 2012 3:46:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [02-10-12 DRAFTRIMDFACTSHEETPROJECTPLAN\\_VLJ14FEB12.doc](#)

---

Hi (b) (6)

I wanted to circle back with you regarding our discussion this morning on the status of your fact sheet project. My written comments are in track changes in the attached document. I look forward to receiving the revised plan by COB Friday February 17, 2012.

(b) (6)

Office: (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 3:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Plain Language Fact Sheets - Project plan (DRAFT) and progress update  
**Importance:** High

Good afternoon

Submitting on time as requested the attached DRAFT project plan.

<< File: 02-10-12 DRAFTRIMDFACTSHEETPROJECTPLAN.doc >>

**Project progress update:** I have been working with identified team members from OPACE and the Web Services staff and I have spoken personally with Bob Tuverson on amenability. The draft ammonium hydroxide Fact sheet has been provided to and reviewed by OPACE and Web Services staff and feedback has been received that is being incorporated in a revised draft that can move into clearance soon.

If a fact sheet is focused exclusively on the consuming public – not industry – OPACE is fine with our posting those fact sheets on their fact sheet site. A new posting category was discussed, but rejected; OPACE prefers to reduce the number of posting categories. If we develop fact sheets that are of interest to industry rather than the public, there are other posting venues available, e.g., Small Plant – HACCP site, etc.

Team meetings will be held telephonically with the first to discuss the revised draft in mid-February. Clearance of the Ammonium Hydroxide Fact sheet with publication (posting) in early March should be attainable depending on the time required for the document to be

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] great weekend!

(b) (6) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [Theresa Rogers](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:13:19 PM

---

Dear, (b) (6)

Thank you for responding to my email, however, your response did NOT address my concerns. I stated in my message I was NOT contradicting the nutritional value of the product our government agency is claiming to be safe. (We really won't know that answer until a generation of children that has been ginny pigs to the experiment grows up.)

The two (2) concerns I have is in the deceptive labeling and the other why did the government decided against radiating beef and uses ammonia?

Concern #1 -- My 87 year old mother can chew fat, she cannot chew the "lean meat products" aka: pink slime. If I had known what was in my meat, I would have instead bought a few roasts (same cost) and asked the butcher to grind up the meat! I would have then known what my sweet elderly mom is eating!! (and would not keep asking her to spit out stuff that she would keep chewing like a cow chewing cud)

Concern #2 -- I had seen where the government was working with some scientific whatever to develop a way to make beef safer and it was all about radiating meat. We nuke much of our food we eat all the time, so it made sense as to the direction the process was going. Other than uber cheap, why ammonia?

If you can forward this email to someone who can answer my concerns, I would really appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely  
Theresa Rogers


PS: that pdf file you attached was exactly what inspired me write my original correspondence and I am thankful the children of the city I live in won't get that meat in our schools

On Mar 22, 2012, at 6:20 AM, (b) (6) - FSIS wrote:

Good Morning, attached is the response to your email regarding beef products treated with ammonia.

We hope this information is helpful. Thank you.

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

<(b) (6)  [att.net.pdf](#)>

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Processing Aids, Labeling and "Pink Slime" and Settlement Reached in Wright County Egg Outbreak, Parts one and two.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:19:24 PM

---

What do you mean this summer??? I do cook my own food!! Stop eating at 7/11 & Burger King!!

Just wait Manning is 1 hit from retiring – and it will probably be the Raiders that do it!! You can be like the Saints and start paying players bounties for Manning! I dunno I'm not convinced that this will bring the Donkeys to the Super Bowl.

(b) (6)

Quality Assurance

Udi's Food – USDA Division

Cell (619) 977-0495

(b) (6) @udisfood.com

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Processing Aids, Labeling and 'Pink Slime' and Settlement Reached in Wright County Egg Outbreak, Parts one and two.

Come on that's not bad wait till you see what happens this summer. COOK your own food. We are so screwed. MANNING are you kidding me. I'm having a party if OAKLAND wins 3 game this year. LOL

(b) (6)

FSIS, USDA, CSI

Denver, Colorado

Cell (b) (6)

*"Nothing makes us so lonely as our Secrets" Paul Tournier*

---

**From:** (b) (6) @udisfood.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:43 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Processing Aids, Labeling and 'Pink Slime' and Settlement Reached in Wright County Egg Outbreak, Parts one and two.

Dude – WTF?? The idea of being COMPLETELY VEGAN is sounding better every day!!

Can you tell me how Pink Slim is a “processing agent” when the government is proclaiming that it adds nutritional value to the meat?

(b) (6)

Quality Assurance

Udi's Food – USDA Division

Cell (b) (6)

(b) (6) [@udisfood.com](mailto:(b)(6)@udisfood.com)

---

**From:** (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@fsis.usda.gov)

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 4:35 PM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: Processing Aids, Labeling and 'Pink Slime' and Settlement Reached in Wright County Egg Outbreak, Parts one and two.

You don't have to read the eggs stuff, but the pink slime you might find interesting.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 9:33 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6)

(b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: Processing Aids, Labeling and 'Pink Slime' and Settlement Reached in Wright County Egg Outbreak, Parts one and two.

FYI

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 7:22 AM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** Processing Aids, Labeling and 'Pink Slime' and Settlement Reached in Wright County Egg Outbreak, Parts one and two.

**Food Policy & Law**

## Processing Aids, Labeling and 'Pink Slime'

**What doesn't have to be labeled, and why?**

by [James Andrews](#) | Mar 26, 2012

Since early March, the product notoriously known as "pink slime," Beef Products Inc.'s lean finely textured beef, has come under an unprecedented amount of scrutiny from most everyone who eats. The ensuing debate has prompted many to question why ground beef packages containing the product are not labeled as such, or at the very least, why the ammonium hydroxide gas used to kill bacteria on the beef is not labeled as an additive or ingredient.

Which elements of food production get labeled and which go incognito, and why?

In the case of lean finely textured beef, the answer to that question involves taking a look at the rules surrounding particular substances in food production called "processing aids."

Processing aids are substances used to aid food production, are not found at significant levels in the final product and have no "functional or technical effects" on the food. The wide-reaching category encompasses everything from organic acids in produce washes to dough strengtheners in frozen waffles.

In short, neither the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) require food makers to list processing aids on labels, and a wide variety of processing aids are allowed in food production as long as each one falls within the guidelines of being "Generally Recognized as Safe," a classification for ingredients often abbreviated as "GRAS."

The FDA keeps [lists](#) of GRAS products, whether they are used as additives or processing aids. (Whereas processing aids are not identifiable in foods, additives are ingredients required on the label because they are found in the final product and technically alter it.) These GRAS lists include everything from salt to chlorine gas to ammonium hydroxide, the antimicrobial used to sanitize lean beef trimmings.

To better illustrate the role of processing aids in food production, the USDA cites the example of a compound called sodium silicoaluminate and its role in sausage. The seasonings found in some sausages may include sodium silicoaluminate for its technical use as an anti-caking agent. Look at that sausage as a whole, however, and the presence of sodium silicoaluminate does not significantly change the food's identity as a sausage.

Given the complexity of the modern food system, accounting for every input that goes into the average supermarket product would be a challenging and largely impractical undertaking, said Dr. Richard Raymond, former undersecretary for food safety at USDA.

In theory, substances classified as processing aids should carry no distinguishable traits into the final product, and therefore identifying them all on a label should have little value, Raymond told **Food Safety News**. But the classification of processing aids is not an exact science, he added, and some processes get excluded from the club.

As an example, Raymond cited the FDA's classification of irradiation as an additive rather than a processing aid despite the technique fitting the criteria of a processing aid. Food irradiation is the process of eliminating microorganisms from food through exposure to ionizing radiation.

In the U.S., meats, spices and some fruits and vegetables can be irradiated to improve safety or shelf life. Because of irradiation's classification as an additive, however, irradiated foods are designated with an international symbol, [the Radura](#), to inform consumers their food was treated with irradiation.

"When consumers see the Radura symbol on meat, they don't want to eat it," Raymond said. "But (for) whole carcass, low-dose irradiation is no different from any other processing aid that's generally recognized as safe."

As it turns out, classifying additives and processing aids as GRAS is not an exact science, either. As the term "Generally Recognized" implies, the FDA looks for a substance to be considered safe according to the consensus of qualified experts, but the agency simply lacks the resources to test all ingredients itself.

Individuals in the food industry often supply scientific data to the FDA for the agency to declare an additive or processing aid as GRAS. Because of the sheer number of substances involved in food production, the FDA relies on industry to vet products and has not conducted a full review of GRAS substances since the 1980s.

As a result, industry perception plays a role in whether a substance gets declared as a processing aid or an additive, and therefore whether or not it ends up on the label. By the nature of the categorizing process, each substance gets classified on an individual basis, as the USDA's federal food labeling guide explains:

"[The Food Safety Inspection Service] does not have a definition for incidental additives or processing aids. However, if a company believes that the use of a substance in the manufacture or formulation of a meat or poultry product is consistent with FDA's labeling definition for an incidental additive processing aid, then data needs to be submitted to FSIS to substantiate conformance with the FDA regulation. FSIS will determine on a case-by-case basis whether a request for the specific use of an ingredient is consistent with FDA's labeling definition of an incidental additive processing aid and thus, exempt from labeling."

As the scrutiny around lean finely textured beef continues, the intricacies of food labeling rules are certain to only make the debate slimier.

© Food Safety News

[More Headlines from Food Policy & Law](#)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Protect Youngest and Oldest Relatives from Foodborne Illness When Preparing Chitterlings  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 28, 2011 5:30:14 AM

---

To me that is almost more gross since it liquefies the meat instead of melting it off the fat. YUCK!!!

Sounds like the Florida Fresh OJ that sits in tanks underground for MONTHS.

Sally

---

**From:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 27, 2011 8:05 PM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Protect Youngest and Oldest Relatives from Foodborne Illness When Preparing Chitterlings

Will be interesting to see if they are switching to hibbert's cold pressed beef, direct competitor with no ammonia but still cheap.

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 27, 2011 03:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Protect Youngest and Oldest Relatives from Foodborne Illness When Preparing Chitterlings

Missed that..... I'm sure they are going to come up with something else.

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 27, 2011 4:47 PM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Protect Youngest and Oldest Relatives from Foodborne Illness When Preparing Chitterlings

Did you see the article on PINK SLIME and how McDonalds and others are no longer using the BWI ammoniated product!!! Must not make (b) (6) too happy.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 27, 2011 4:30 PM  
**To:** Canavan, Jeff - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Protect Youngest and Oldest Relatives from Foodborne Illness When Preparing Chitterlings

Had some chitterlings on Christmas! So far so good for me.....(b) (6) hates them so I don't need worry about that. Need to keep my eyes on my dad and the other 80+ guests we had. ☹

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director  
LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA  
(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

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<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_Fsis/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service [mailto:usfsis@govdelivery.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 27, 2011 11:50 AM

**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Subject:** Protect Youngest and Oldest Relatives from Foodborne Illness When Preparing Chitterlings

## **[Protect Youngest and Oldest Relatives from Foodborne Illness When Preparing Chitterlings](#)**

*12/27/2011 11:08 AM EST*

Chitterlings, which are the intestines of pigs, may harbor bacteria called *Yersinia enterocolitica* that can cause yersiniosis, a diarrheal illness in humans. Since chitterlings typically are enjoyed this time of year, the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is offering tips to keep families safer from yersiniosis this winter.



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---

This email was sent to roselyn.murphy-jenkins@fsis.usda.gov using GovDelivery, on behalf of the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service · United States Department of Agriculture · 1400 Independence Ave., S.W. · Washington D.C. 20250 · 800-439-1420





**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: public comment on federal register FW: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on boad - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:30:30 AM

---

Thanks! I'll make sure it gets posted.

(b) (6)  
*Management Assistant*  
*United States Department of Agriculture*  
*Food Safety and Inspection Service*  
*Office of Policy and Program Development*  
*Risk, Innovations, and Management Division (RIMD)*  
**Office:** (b) (6)  
**Email:** (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Dessai, Uday - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: public comment on federal register FW: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on boad - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit

(b) (6)

This came in response to our FR below.

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science  
National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: 202-690-6600  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 9:26 AM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: public comment on federal register FW: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on boad - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit

FYI

(b) (6)  
*Advisory Committee Specialist*

USDA, FSIS, OPHS, MD, NACMCF  
Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Fax: 202-690-6364  
Email: (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** usacitizen1 usacitizen1 [mailto:usacitizen1@live.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 24, 2012 6:58 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; alfred.almanza@fsis.usda.gov; deficitreduction@senate.gov; info@taxpayer.net; media@cagw.org  
**Subject:** public comment on federal register FW: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on boad - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit

no beltway insiders should be chosen. you should look for an honest person. insiders are always chosen. that is why our federal govt is so insane these days. no common sense is being shown. present decisions issuing from usda are hurting america. many countries dont want to buy american food. they have to be pressured to do it. they know we are getting ge Frankenfood, cloning, and other horrors, where you dont label the bgh and other crap that is done to food. this agency is sick and dishonest to the public. the quality of who is on the present advisory board, in my opinion, is not good. it needs improvement. what is being done to american people by the lousy people working at the usda is beyond belief. giving us pink slime to eat - thats an indication. especially in these times of bovine spongiform encephalopathy.  
jean public

---

To: usacitizen1@live.com  
Subject: gaency makes it so no ordinary american citizen can sit on boad - thats why these agencies are going wildly out orbit  
From: (b) (6) @aol.com  
Date: Thu, 22 Mar 2012 10:30:09 -0400

[Federal Register Volume 77, Number 56 (Thursday, March 22, 2012)]  
[Notices]  
[Pages 16807-16809]  
From the Federal Register Online via the Government Printing Office  
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[FR Doc No: 2012-6895]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2012-0010]

Nominations for Membership on the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

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SUMMARY: This notice is announcing that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting nominations for membership to fill 16 vacancies on the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological

Criteria for Foods (NACMCF).

NACMCF is seeking members with scientific expertise in the fields of epidemiology, food technology, microbiology (food, clinical, and predictive), toxicology, risk assessment, infectious disease, biostatistics, and other related sciences. NACMCF is seeking applications from persons from academia, industry, consumer groups, State governments, and the Federal Government, as well as all other interested persons with such expertise.

Please note that federally registered lobbyists cannot be considered for USDA advisory committee membership. Members can only serve on one USDA advisory committee at a time. All nominees will undergo a USDA background check.

Members who are not Federal government employees will be appointed to serve as non-compensated special government employees (SGEs). SGEs will be subject to appropriate conflict of interest statutes and standards of ethical conduct.

To receive consideration for serving on the NACMCF, a nominee must submit a resume and USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755. The resume or curriculum vitae must be limited to five one-sided pages and should include educational background, expertise, and a list of select publications. For submissions received that are more than five one-sided pages in length, only the first five pages will be reviewed. USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755 is available online at:  
<http://www.ocio.usda.gov/forms/doc/AD-755.pdf>.

DATES: Nominations including a cover letter to the Secretary, and the nominee's typed resume or curriculum vitae and a completed USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background

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Information form AD-755 must be received by April 23, 2012. Self nominations are welcome.

ADDRESSES: Nomination packages including a cover letter to the Secretary accompanied by a resume and AD-755 form can be sent by mail to: Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Attn: National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Karen Thomas-Sharp, Advisory Committee Specialist, by telephone at 202-690-6620 or by email [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov).

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by either of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: This Web site (<http://www.regulations.gov>) provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this Web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Follow the online instructions at that site for submitting comments.

Mail, including CD-ROMS: Send to Docket Clerk, USDA, FSIS Docket Room, Patriots Plaza 3, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Mailstop 3782, Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

Hand- or courier-delivered items: Deliver to the Docket Clerk, USDA, FSIS Docket Room at Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. Street SW., Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2012-0010. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Docket: For access to background documents or comments received, go to the FSIS Docket Room at Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. Street SW., Room 8-164, Washington, DC 20250-3700 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The NACMCF was established in March 1988, in response to a recommendation in a 1985 report of the National Academy of Sciences

Committee on Food Protection, Subcommittee on Microbiological Criteria, "An Evaluation of the Role of Microbiological Criteria for Foods." The current charter for the NACMCF and other information about the Committee are available for viewing to the public on the FSIS Web site at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSYS/NACMCF/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSYS/NACMCF/index.asp).

The Committee provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services concerning the development of microbiological criteria by which the safety and wholesomeness of food can be assessed. For example, the Committee assists in the development of criteria for microorganisms that indicate whether food has been processed using good manufacturing practices.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that recommendations made by the Committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department.

Given the complexity of issues, the full Committee expects to meet at least once a year by teleconference or in-person, and the meetings will be announced in the Federal Register. The subcommittees will meet as deemed necessary by the chairperson and will be held as working group meetings in an open public forum. Subcommittees also may meet through teleconference or by computer-based conferencing (Webinars). Subcommittees may invite technical experts to present information for consideration by the subcommittee. The subcommittee meetings will not be announced in the Federal Register. FSIS will announce the agenda and subcommittee working group meetings through the Constituent Update, available online at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news & events/Constituent Update/index.asp>.

NACMCF holds subcommittee meetings in order to accomplish the work of NACMCF; all subcommittee work is reviewed and approved during a public meeting of the full Committee, as announced in the Federal Register. All data and records available to the full Committee are expected to be available to the public when the full Committee reviews and approves the work of the subcommittee.

Advisory Committee members have a two-year term, renewable for two consecutive terms. Members are expected to attend all in-person meetings for the smooth functioning of this advisory committee. However, the Advisory Committee realizes that unexpected events or extenuating circumstances (e.g., a personal or family emergency) may result in a member's inability to attend an in-person meeting and that attendance through teleconferencing may be necessary. Some meetings may be held through teleconferencing and or Webinars exclusively.

Members must be prepared to work outside of scheduled Committee and subcommittee meetings and may be required to assist in document preparation. Committee members serve on a voluntary basis; however, travel expenses and per diem reimbursement are available.

#### Regarding Nominees Who Are Selected

All SGE and Federal government employee nominees who are selected must complete the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) 450 Confidential Financial Disclosure Report before rendering any advice or prior to their first meeting. All members will be reviewed for conflict of interest pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 208 in relation to specific NACMCF work charges. Financial disclosure updates will be required annually. Members must report any changes in financial holdings requiring additional disclosure. OGE 450 forms are available on-line at: <http://www.oge.gov/Financial-Disclosure/Confidential-Financial-Disclosure-450/OGE-Form-450/>.

#### Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this notice online through the FSIS Web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations & policies/Federal Register Notices/index>.

FSIS will also make copies of this Federal Register publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is also available on the FSIS

Web page. In addition, FSIS offers an electronic mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Email Subscription/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News%20&%20Events/Email%20Subscription/). Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or

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delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

#### USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, or audiotape.) should contact USDA's Target Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY).

To file a written complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Done at Washington, DC, on March 19, 2012.  
Alfred V. Almanza,  
Administrator.  
[FR Doc. 2012-6895 Filed 3-21-12; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** ["Knowles, David"](#)  
**Cc:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime petition  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 4:05:57 PM

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David -  
Off the record,  
I don't see an attachment but if this is a formal petition to FSIS there are appropriate channels for it to go through.

We are at a point where we are getting a little frustrated.

We have stated repeatedly that we don't have an order with BPI - that is not how it works. Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) - the BPI product you reference - is a raw material that USDA includes as an allowable raw material in several beef items it procures. It is included in these products by the vendors that produce it. We then make purchases through vendors.

What your story failed to point out is that the local schools all over the nation are the ones buying the vast majority of this product - if they don't want to, they don't have to, like USDA they buy from vendors who may or may not use this product. What your story also failed to point out is that this is commercially available all over the US and common in ground beef people consume everyday.

-----Original Message-----

From: Knowles, David [<mailto:David.Knowles@thedaily.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 3:52 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
Subject: Pink Slime petition

Dear (b) (6)

The Daily is running a story about a woman who started a petition this morning to try and get the USDA to stop from buying LBT from Beef Products, Inc. I am attaching her web article which contains a letter to Secretary Vilsak as well as the petition.

I have a couple of questions for the story (which will run tomorrow):

1. Was anyone at the USDA, or Secretary Vilsak, aware of the petition before receiving it from me today?
2. Have there been other complaints about BPI's LBT in recent days?
3. Would it even be possible to cancel USDA's order from BPI for this year?

Thanks, as always for your help.

Best regards,  
David Knowles  
Reporter, The Daily  
510-647-9584

---

From: Lavallee, Aaron [Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov]  
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 10:10 AM  
To: Knowles, David  
Cc: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Subject: RE: BPI questions

David,  
My apologies for the delay - I was out sick yesterday. I want to make clear that our emails off the record for now.

I am going to need some time to look in to this and will loop in my colleague Dirk on this email.

I am not familiar with either of these gentlemen but I have some concerns with their statements below and your plan to use them.

I need to make very clear what FSIS does. FSIS is responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, correctly labeled and packaged. So if the validity of these individuals is based on the fact that they were FSIS employees then we have concerns because FSIS does not "consider something to be ground beef" and does not determine "inferior quality." FSIS is in the business of inspecting, not grading. So what these gentlemen are saying would appear to be personal opinions, not professional assessments or statements.

Also I would double check some of the dates as I believe JoAnn Smith may have been at USDA well before that.

We are going to do some checking on this and get back with you shortly. What is your timeline and the best number to reach you at?

Aaron Lavallee  
Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.720.6959  
Cell: (b) (6)  
aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov  
<http://www.usda.gov>

Stay Connected with USDA:

-----Original Message-----

From: Knowles, David [<mailto:David.Knowles@thedaily.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 3:40 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron  
Subject: BPI questions

Dear Aaron,

I've been asked to do another story on the BPI's product that will look into the red flags raised by two former FSIS employees, Carl Custer and Gerald Zirnstein. I've interviewed both gentlemen and wanted to give USDA a chance to respond to some of the statements that each has made that will be used in the piece.

Mr. Zirnstein says he visited BPI's factory in 2002 and that he raised concerns about their LBT product. In a March 2002 e-mail, Zirnstein termed the product "pink slime" and said he did not consider it to be ground beef (as per the USDA's definition). Does this jibe with USDA's recollection?

Mr. Custer, along with others in the department, received that e-mail, which confirmed his conclusions about BPI's product. Custer said he first encountered BPI back in the late 90's, and also concluded that the LBT was of an "inferior quality" to ground beef. It is his recollection that in 2002, then undersecretary JoAnn Smith declared of BPI's product, "If it's pink, then it's meat," and that FSIS dropped its objections to the LBT product thereafter. Can you corroborate or deny any of that?

Since the Dec. 30 2009 New York Times article detailing cases of E-Coli in BPI meat, what measures has USDA taken to insure that their LBT product is inspected on a regular basis? Are there any other steps USDA and FSIS have taken to allay the concerns raised by Mr. Zirnstein and Mr. Custer?

Thank you, once again, for your help with this. It's important to me to have the facts of this story reported properly.

Best,  
David Knowles  
Reporter, The Daily  
510-647-9584

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Q's  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 11:45:41 AM

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I knew you could accumulate the data quicker, which is why I haven't responded.

Yes, (b) (6) likes to contact people above his pay grade, huh?

(b) (6)  
*Food Safety Specialist*  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2-L248C, MS- 5269  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854  
or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:56 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Q's

Hi,

I can easily get the Hotline numbers from the reports that way (b) (6) doesn't have to do a "roll call" to count the calls.

I'm not sure we should report the data because they haven't asked for it. My 6 years of reporting experience here has taught me to only provide the data when they ask for it. If anything, I would just send (b) (6) an update in case they get asked about it they will have the data and can make the decision to send downtown. Remember there is a chain of command. We need to be discriminating about who we contact in upper management. I would let (b) (6) make the decision to send downtown.

Of course, if Brian asks for it I would certainly send it.

Just my opinion...

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 9:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Q's

(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

It would be great if we can provide 'pink slime' numbers, I think they may find the information interesting downtown:

Could you please get some type of count at end of day for such calls on the hotline?

It's hard to gauge based on the news lately what to expect (lower or higher numbers)

(b) (6) if you could get the HL numbers and Tina could you get the Chat ones on 'pink slime' and send the info to Brian Mabry (see below)?

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You may have seen this news release at usda.gov:

**USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year:**

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&contentidonly=true>

and on our FSIS website meetings related to National School Lunch program:

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/NR\\_031412\\_01/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_031412_01/index.asp)

Thanks and have a great weekend everyone!

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

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**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:57 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Q's

(b) (6)

Thanks – do y'all have a good estimate of how many contacts you have received overall, and any trends on the calls (ie, I assume it is still increasing)? We are working with OC but it is a difficult process. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:46 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Q's

<< File: Pink Slime March 2012.docx >> Brian, attached is a small sample of inquiries we're beginning to receive related to 'pink slime'

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] ilstop 5269 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 20705-5000  
(b) (6)  
[REDACTED] (b) (6) [REDACTED] fsis.usda.gov  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - [Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Q's  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:37:17 AM

---

I'll give (b) (6) my numbers (if any) today.

V/R,

(b) (6) MPH

LCDR, US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps  
Technical Information Specialist (Bilingual)  
USDA/FSIS/ FSE  
Room 2L244-C  
5601 Sunnyside Ave  
Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6) Fax: 301-504-2092

(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

The mission of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of the Nation.

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 9:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Q's

(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

It would be great if we can provide 'pink slime' numbers, I think they may find the information interesting downtown:

Could you please get some type of count at end of day for such calls on the hotline?

It's hard to gauge based on the news lately what to expect (lower or higher numbers)

(b) (6) if you could get the HL numbers and (b) (6) could you get the Chat ones on 'pink slime' and send the info to Brian Mabry (see below)?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Q's  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 8:44:41 AM

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Right..you bet  
You got it Brian

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff  
Meat and Poultry Hotline  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Tel: (b) (6)  
e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 8:43 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink Slime Q's

Thanks for the update. Stay tuned for more...

Best ~ Brian

Brian K. Mabry  
Congressional and Media  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Please Note New Direct Dial  
tel. 202.720.9891 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 06:44 AM  
**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Q's

Brian

Just fyi, we got 13 such calls yesterday on the hotline

(b) (6)

---

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:57 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Q's

(b) (6)

Thanks – do y'all have a good estimate of how many contacts you have received overall, and any trends on the calls (ie, I assume it is still increasing)? We are working with OC but it is a difficult process. Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
**Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs**  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Q's  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:58:19 AM

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I'll see what numbers we can provide

And back to you Brian

Thanks for your follow ups.

Much appreciated

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

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**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:57 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
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**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
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direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460  
[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Q's  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:56:17 AM

---

Hi,

I can easily get the Hotline numbers from the reports that way (b) (6) doesn't have to do a "roll call" to count the calls.

I'm not sure we should report the data because they haven't asked for it. My 6 years of reporting experience here has taught me to only provide the data when they ask for it. If anything, I would just send (b) (6) an update in case they get asked about it they will have the data and can make the decision to send downtown. Remember there is a chain of command. We need to be discriminating about who we contact in upper management. I would let (b) (6) make the decision to send downtown.

Of course, if Brian asks for it I would certainly send it.

Just my opinion...

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Q's  
**Date:** Sunday, March 18, 2012 11:15:59 AM

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Ok, just provide the numbers then,

Thanks

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

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**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:56 AM  
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(b) (6) RD RN

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USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D

5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705

Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](https://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme? ~Talking Points  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:08:23 AM

---

Hi Dirk

Please note:

In my e-mail earlier this morning (see below), I had intended to say "Talking Points" --- (NOT 'key points')

Thank you for your assistance,

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:26 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Good morning Dirk

We're beginning to get some inquiries --mostly negative--as related to "pink slime:" would you have updated key points?

This appears to have re-surfaced in the media quite recently.

Mostly, calls or e-mails are about "how does USDA allow usage of such 'pink slime' or

'ammonia' in beef?"

They are quite resentful in their tone.

Please let me know,

I look forward to your response.

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:02 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Hi (b) (6)

I always seem to get confused about this topic. Is the "pink slime" the same as the TG enzyme and the same as what is in the Jamie Oliver show? Anyway, here are the questions from Ask Karen over the past few days. I've forwarded them to ECIMS. I had one call that was transferred to me from Israel about the TG enzyme yesterday. I handled that okay because I had talking points.

Anyway, here are the questions

1. 2/2/12 "how can you sleep at night allowing red slime ammonia treated crap to be added to beef? You ought to be ashamed, if not put in jail."
2. 2/2/12 "Why is pink slime allowed to be used?"
3. 2/1/12 "I just read an article that McDonald's will stop using "pink slime" (beef waste treated with ammonia) in their burgers. How can the USDA label "pink slime" safe?"

4. 2/1/12I have been seeing lately a lot of information about food processing. The latest is that ammonia is added to ground beef. Is that true? I have two children to protect and would hate to think that in feeding them "healthy" food, I am in fact feeding them household cleaner. Any information you could give me on this would be helpful as I really am striving to give my children good foods. Thank you.

5. 2/1/12 I recently watch Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution and found out 70% of America's Beef is Treated with Ammonia. Even if it was 10% of America's beef it would be very disappointing.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wshlnRWnf30>

Please tell me that the USDA does NOT allow this type of meat to be sold in the US. Is this true?

6. 1/30/12 "Why do you allow ammonium hydroxide to be put into our food without warning us? YOU ARE SICK. Stop ceding to corporate interests. It is time to stand up for our planet and all its inhabitants. To do otherwise is not only anti-American, but anti-planet. We will no longer tolerate the choice of corporations and industry over the concerns of our only planet. Our greedy, fascist, corporate government is WAY out of control. The People are extremely sick of your greedy, corporate, power-hungry policies. Reel yourselves in or The Revolution will do your job for you. You have been warned."

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Lavallee, Aaron](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:08:48 AM

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No problem... I have a statement pending Engeljohn's review...

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:08 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Agree. I'm in management council meeting, so please work on this without me.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884 NOTE NEW NUMBER  
Cell: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 08:50 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

I am fine with putting something separate together but it needs to be scaled back and plain language and focus on safety

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:08:54 AM

---

Much appreciated

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

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e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

FYI – working on getting something for you all...

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

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Cell: (202) 695-9950



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<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:26 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Good morning Dirk

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Mostly, calls or e-mails are about "how does USDA allow usage of such 'pink slime' or 'ammonia' in beef?"

They are quite resentful in their tone.

Please let me know,

I look forward to your response.

(b) (6)

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(b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:38:59 AM

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Actually, that's great (b) (6)

The more we have like these inquiries, we more 'push' I think we'll have to get those key points—

This is sort of new to me, since I'm not quite sure how long it takes to get Key points, though going by memory they usually jump on these things fairly quickly

Going over to see Diane and see what else is needed.

Good discussion with you earlier by phone

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:29 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

I know, it is a lot! Sorry about that, I saw two in the box this morning and then I thought let me go back and check and then I realized we had more than I remembered.

Whatever information you can send will help I'm sure we will be getting calls.

I just can't seem to keep the pink slim/ammonia issue separate from the TG enzyme issue. Those topics keep popping up as questions at the same time. Now all we need is Butterball Halal labeling to pop up again and we will be busy.

(b) (6) RD RN

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Beltsville, MD 20705  
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(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:18 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Wow, that's quite a few questions in AskKaren (b) (6)

No, the TG enzyme is related to the 'meat glue' terms.

"Pink slime" is related to ammonium hydroxide used in certain processing of beef trimmings – these are not talking points, however,

Just going by what I've read in the past and something I read this morning..

But they're 2 different things----I'll get some clarification and will send it to the whole staff.

Thanks for sharing those questions—all of these 6 seem to be related potentially to what has come to be called 'pink slime'

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff  
Meat and Poultry Hotline  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Tel: (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 10:47:11 AM

---

Carol:

Sonya is bring the fact sheet and talking points to you right now.

(b) (6)  
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[Mailstop 5268 \(2-L290\)](#)  
[5601 Sunnyside Avenue](#)  
[Beltsville, MD 20705](#)  
[Phone: \(b\) \(6\)](#)

[BB: \(b\) \(6\)](#)  
[Fax: 301-504-0203](#)  
[\(b\) \(6\) @fsis.usda.gov](#)

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:49 AM  
**To:** Tuverson, Robert - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?  
**Importance:** High

Can you please send me what we provided to hotline callers starting back in February?  
Need it quickly this morning.

Thanks!

***Carol Blake***  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:44 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Can you find out what we provided to the hotline for TPs back at the beginning of February

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:32 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

We are getting a number of calls on our Hotline about the pink slime, and need to provide responses. Can we provide callers with the information contained in the quote we distributed last night? Anything else that has been approved that we can provide? Thanks

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

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Cell: (202) 695-9950

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<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:26 AM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Cc:** Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Good morning Dirk

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They are quite resentful in their tone.

Please let me know,

I look forward to your response.

(b) (6)

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(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

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Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:02 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Hi (b) (6)

I always seem to get confused about this topic. Is the “pink slime” the same as the TG enzyme and the same as what is in the Jamie Oliver show? Anyway, here are the questions from Ask Karen over the past few days. I’ve forwarded them to ECIMS. I had one call that was transferred to me from Israel about the TG enzyme yesterday. I handled that okay because I had talking points.

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5. 2/1/12 I recently watch Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution and found out 70% of America's Beef is Treated with Ammonia. Even if it was 10% of America's beef it would be very disappointing.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wshlnRWnf30>

Please tell me that the USDA does NOT allow this type of meat to be sold in the US. Is this true?

6. 1/30/12 "Why do you allow ammonium hydroxide to be put into our food without warning us? YOU ARE SICK. Stop ceding to corporate interests. It is time to stand up for our planet and all its inhabitants. To do otherwise is not only anti-American, but anti-planet. We will no longer tolerate the choice of corporations and industry over the concerns of our only planet. Our greedy, fascist, corporate government is WAY out of control. The People are extremely sick of your greedy, corporate, power-hungry policies. Reel yourselves in or The Revolution will do your job for you. You have been warned."

(b) (6) RD RN

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USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

**From:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:19:43 PM

---

Sure. I am at my desk – 720-0089

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (b) (6) -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:19 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Okay. My understanding was it was treated in some way to reduce the pathogen load. Would it be easier for me to give you a call when you have a moment? (I can imagine that might be easier for you!) Thanks

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
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<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:14 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Same thing. However, the product may or may not be treated.

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:11 AM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?



Thank you. Is the product treated with anhydrous ammonia or ammonia hydroxide, or are these the same thing? Thanks for clarifying for me!

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
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Cell: (202) 695-9950  
dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 12:10 PM  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

To be clear, the emulsion is the "pink slime"

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
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BlackBerry -- (b) (6) -- emergency only  
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Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:19 AM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Okay – thank you!

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
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---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:17 AM

**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS

**Subject:** Re: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

What you have is accurate but it doesn't answer the issue about the pink slime. I think you should add -- beef trim containing high fat content can be processed in a manner to remove a substantial amount of the fat content through low temperature rendering, resulting in an emulsion similar to the form of meat used in sausage and hot dogs. This emulsion is then subjected to an antimicrobial treatment using anhydrous ammonia and frozen, and then incorporated into other coarse ground trim.

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 09:06 AM

**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS

**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS

**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Good morning, Dr. Engeljohn,

We have received quite a few consumers calling the Meat and Poultry Hotline with concerns about "pink slime." Would the statement below be accurate to distribute? If so, we'll send it up the chain for additional review. Thanks

"The U.S. Food and Drug Administration determined that using ammonia hydroxide in order to control pathogens in beef is a safe practice. Given that it is not harmful for people to consume and has been demonstrated to reduce foodborne pathogens in beef products being sold to consumers, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service permits its use in the ground beef production process."

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:26 AM  
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**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

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They are quite resentful in their tone.

Please let me know,

I look forward to your response.

(b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

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e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:02 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

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4. 2/1/12 I have been seeing lately a lot of information about food processing. The latest is that ammonia is added to ground beef. Is that true? I have two children to protect and would hate to think that in feeding them "healthy" food, I am in fact feeding them household cleaner. Any information you could give me on this would be helpful as I really am striving to give my children good foods. Thank you.
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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wshlnRWnf30>

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6. 1/30/12 "Why do you allow ammonium hydroxide to be put into our food without warning us? YOU ARE SICK. Stop ceding to corporate interests. It is time to stand up for our planet and all its inhabitants. To do otherwise is not only anti-American, but anti-planet. We will no longer tolerate the choice of corporations and industry over the concerns of our only planet. Our greedy, fascist, corporate government is WAY out of control. The People are extremely sick of your greedy, corporate, power-hungry policies. Reel yourselves in or The Revolution will do your job for you. You have been warned."

(b) (6) RD RN  
Iron Specialist

(b) (6) RD RN  
Iron Specialist

Education

Education Staff

21-2100

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Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Tuverson, Robert - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 10:43:11 AM

---

Carol:

I checked with the Hotline and to date they have received approximately 85 calls since the end of February to date on the subject of pink slime. The comment below addresses how they have handled the questions:

Over the course of the last few weeks as the “pink slime” calls escalated, the media calls have been forwarded to CPA, we used the talking points provided by Dirk, and have entered many callers comments

into our data base saying that we would be happy to record their comments about the subject. In the Hotline email account, all emails regarding the “pink slime” topic have been forwarded to [fsis@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis@fsis.usda.gov) for ECIMS to

respond.

Below are the talking points provided by Brian Mabry to us and I am faxing to you the comments that Dirk sent us, a draft of a fact sheet prepared by Kathy Bernard but has not been cleared.

Colleagues,

I know there have a number of calls from the public concerned about “pink slime.” At this time, messaging comes from USDA OC since this is more than just a FSIS issue.

The only authorized statement you can give anyone who calls is below:

“All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.”

Most of it has centered around the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) announcing a purchase of the product (constituting about 3% (7,000,000 pounds) of their total beef purchases for the year) for the National School Lunch Program. The link is to a story that ran on ABC News on Wednesday night.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at->

[supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/](#)

There is also an online petition at [change.org](#) asking Sec. Vilsack and others associate with the school lunch program to stop purchasing the product, and it has gathered more than 11,000 signatures in about 3 days.

If you can provide an estimate of how many contacts from the public you have received, and if it is trending up or down, I'll be sure to make sure OC is kept informed. Sorry I don't have more you can use.

(b) (6) (b) (6) who has been Acting Hotline Manager, will be in around 11:00 am this morning. I will check with him for more information. I am faxing the two documents mentioned above right now. Let me know if there is anything else I can do for you.

(b) (6)  
[USDA/FSIS/OPACE/FSES](#)  
[Mailstop 5268 \(2-L290\)](#)  
[5601 Sunnyside Avenue](#)  
[Beltsville, MD 20705](#)  
Phone: (b) (6)

BB: (b) (6)  
[Fax: 301-504-0203](#)  
(b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](#)

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:49 AM  
**To:** Tuverson, Robert - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?  
**Importance:** High

Can you please send me what we provided to hotline callers starting back in February?  
Need it quickly this morning.

Thanks!

***Carol Blake***  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](#)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

Check your steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

---

**From:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 9:44 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

Can you find out what we provided to the hotline for TPs back at the beginning of February

---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:32 AM  
**To:** Lavalley, Aaron; Blake, Carol - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Questions or TG enzyme?

We are getting a number of calls on our Hotline about the pink slime, and need to provide responses. Can we provide callers with the information contained in the quote we distributed last night? Anything else that has been approved that we can provide? Thanks

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Stats for Incidents - Ask Karen.xlsx  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 8:28:38 AM

---

Ok, thanks for the information (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 5:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Stats for Incidents - Ask Karen.xlsx

Hi,

The Statistics have not really changed much. We are averaging 5 inquiries a day for the Hotline and Ask Karen. It seems like more because the calls tend to be longer and they are complaining. The issue is the same, why isn't it labeled, why is it allowed, it's not safe, and now that USDA is giving the schools the option to purchase it one caller commented, "that's insane. Why would you allow it to still be sold in stores if you are allowing schools to opt out of it. He says the government is owned by big business."

<< File: Pink Slime Stats for Incidents - Ask Karen.xlsx >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime talking points  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:37:08 AM

---

Any time,

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:04 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime talking points

Thanks!

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:57 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime talking points

Sure, I have it – please see below

what Brian sent us on march 9:

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OPACE/Managers; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** "Pink Slime" inquiries

Colleagues,

I know there have a number of calls from the public concerned about “pink slime.” At this time, messaging comes from USDA OC since this is more than just a FSIS issue.

The only authorized statement you can give anyone who calls is below:

“All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.”

Most of it has centered around the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) announcing a purchase of the product (constituting about 3% (7,000,000 pounds) of their total beef purchases for the year) for the National School Lunch Program. The link is to a story that ran on ABC News on Wednesday night.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

There is also an online petition at change.org asking Sec. Vilsack and others associate with the school lunch program to stop purchasing the product, and it has gathered more than 11,000 signatures in about 3 days.

If you can provide an estimate of how many contacts from the public you have received, and if it is trending up or down, I'll be sure to make sure OC is kept informed. Sorry I don't have more you can use.

Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
*Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs*  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building

direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460

[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:53 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime talking points

(b) (6)

Didn't Brian send a statement or some kind of talking points for us to use about pink slime? Would you please send it to (b) (6) ?

Thanks!

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSSIS/FSES

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Room 2/L281, Maildrop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

(office) (b) (6)

(fax) 301-504-2092

**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime to be served in school lunches  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:33:44 AM

---

Yeah, I see... guess you can do anything once you retire... Wow

(b) (6) **M.P.H., M.S.**

**USDA/FSIS/OPHS/AED**

**Lieutenant, USPHS**

**Surveillance Epidemiologist**

**1400 Independence Ave., SW**

**Stop 3766, PP3, Room 9-233A**

**work:** (b) (6)

**fax: 202-690-6364**

**email:** (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

" THIS IS THE DAY WHICH THE LORD HAS MADE; WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT." PSALM 118:24

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:32 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime to be served in school lunches

Hey-both those guys used to work in MD here in OPHS

(b) (6), DVM, MPH, DACVPM

Veterinary Epidemiologist

Applied Epidemiology Division/Office of Public Health Science/USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-241B

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office Phone: (b) (6)

Office Fax: (202) 690-6364

Email: (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:27 AM

**To:** FSIS - OPHS/HHSD

**Subject:** Pink slime to be served in school lunches

WASHINGTON - When McDonald's and other fast-food chains announced last month that "pink slime" was no longer being used in their burgers, some thought that the product -- beef trimmings treated with ammonium hydroxide -- had disappeared from the nation's food supply. But a new report in the Daily tablet newspaper suggests that the slime will appear in school lunches this spring -- 7 million pounds of it.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, schools and school districts plan to buy the treated meat from Beef Products Inc. for the national school-lunch program in coming months. The USDA said that all of its ground-beef purchases "meet the highest standard for food safety" and that ammonium hydroxide is "generally recognized as safe." It also said it strengthened ground-beef safety standards in recent years.

<http://www.startribune.com/nation/142003303.html>

(b) (6) M.P.H., M.S.

**USDA/FSIS/OPHS/AED**

**Lieutenant, USPHS**

**Surveillance Epidemiologist**

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**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime to be served in school lunches  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:21:39 PM

---

It's all good ☺ I send lunchables to school with him sometimes...

**(b) (6) M.P.H., M.S.**

**USDA/FSIS/OPHS/AED**

**Lieutenant, USPHS**

**Surveillance Epidemiologist**

**1400 Independence Ave., SW**

**Stop 3766, PP3, Room 9-233A**

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**fax: 202-690-6364**

**email:** (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:07 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime to be served in school lunches

Hmmm...I think I might? (Though that is my personal opinion and should in no way be interpreted to reflect on the school lunch program... ;o) )

**(b) (6) MS, DVM**

**Public Health and Epidemiology Liaison**

**Office of Public Health Science | Food Safety and Inspection Service | U.S. Department of Agriculture**

**Butler Square West, Suite 989-C | 100 North 6th Street | Minneapolis, MN, 55403**

**Tel:** (b) (6) | **Blackberry** (b) (6) | **Cell** (b) (6) | **Fax:** 612-370-2411 | **Email:** (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime to be served in school lunches

I'm debating now whether to send lunch with my son to school...

(b) (6) **M.P.H., M.S.**

**USDA/FSIS/OPHS/AED**

**Lieutenant, USPHS**

**Surveillance Epidemiologist**

**1400 Independence Ave., SW**

**Stop 3766, PP3, Room 9-233A**

**work:** (b) (6)

**fax:** 202-690-6364

**email:** (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 12:03 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime to be served in school lunches

I couldn't resist...

(b) (6), MS, DVM

Public Health and Epidemiology Liaison

Office of Public Health Science | Food Safety and Inspection Service | U.S. Department of Agriculture

Butler Square West, Suite 989-C | 100 North 6th Street | Minneapolis, MN, 55403

Tel: (b) (6) | Blackberry (b) (6) | Cell: (b) (6) | Fax: 612-370-2411 | Email: (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime to be served in school lunches



You're too funny ☺

(b) (6) M.P.H., M.S.

**USDA/FSIS/OPHS/AED**

**Lieutenant, USPHS**

**Surveillance Epidemiologist**

**1400 Independence Ave., SW**

**Stop 3766, PP3, Room 9-233A**

**work:** (b) (6)

**fax: 202-690-6364**

**email:** (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

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---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime to be served in school lunches

Nom nom nom...

(b) (6), MS, DVM

Public Health and Epidemiology Liaison

Office of Public Health Science | Food Safety and Inspection Service | U.S. Department of Agriculture

Butler Square West, Suite 989-C | 100 North 6th Street | Minneapolis, MN, 55403

Tel: (b) (6) | Blackberry: (b) (6) | Cell: (b) (6) | Fax: 612-370-2411 | Email: (b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:27 AM  
**To:** FSIS - OPHS/HHSD  
**Subject:** Pink slime to be served in school lunches

WASHINGTON - When McDonald's and other fast-food chains announced last month that "pink slime" was no longer being used in their burgers, some thought that the product -- beef trimmings treated with ammonium hydroxide -- had disappeared from

the nation's food supply. But a new report in the Daily tablet newspaper suggests that the slime will appear in school lunches this spring -- 7 million pounds of it.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, schools and school districts plan to buy the treated meat from Beef Products Inc. for the national school-lunch program in coming months. The USDA said that all of its ground-beef purchases "meet the highest standard for food safety" and that ammonium hydroxide is "generally recognized as safe." It also said it strengthened ground-beef safety standards in recent years.

<http://www.startribune.com/nation/142003303.html>

(b) (6) **M.P.H., M.S.**

**USDA/FSIS/OPHS/AED**

**Lieutenant, USPHS**

**Surveillance Epidemiologist**

**1400 Independence Ave., SW**

**Stop 3766, PP3, Room 9-233A**

**work:** (b) (6)

**fax: 202-690-6364**

**email:** (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime update  
**Date:** Friday, December 30, 2011 11:17:49 AM

---

Ha ha!!!! I need to call in for my voicemail. I caught a cold on the trip and have a stuffy head. No fun.

No plus size boots for me!!! We were in Texas – about 2 hours West of Dallas. Small town. Kind of boring. I think I'll skip it next year, even if I'm home alone.

Awesome about leaving early! I'm looking forward to it, too. ☺

Happy New Year! Holler if you are in the hood – (b) (6) said she's leaving town.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, December 30, 2011 11:16 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime update

Howdy. PP3 is so quiet it's dreadful. Also our phones aren't ringing, which makes the time drag. Very excited about leaving 3 hours early – that's 12:15 for us!

Where did you go for xmas? Did you get any plus-size boots for xmas? Our trip was fun. We played A LOT of poker. Clearly since I am at work I didn't win the lottery, or come into any other money. I quit WW and exercise for 4 days and survived. That was a nice 4 days. Sigh. How many days until the big trip?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 29, 2011 7:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime update

Hey! How was your trip?

I did not win the lottery....only \$3 from the scratch offs. So, I am back in Maryland. How are things at PP3?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 28, 2011 8:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime update

<http://www.argusleader.com/article/20111225/NEWS/312250011/Questions-perception-prompt-burger-chains-ditch-product>

I guess all the uneducated, activist cry-babies made enough of a stink about ammonia-treated beef to make a difference. Activists 1, food safety 0. And it highlights the power of public perception over science, which I find very interesting.

(b) (6)

(b) (6), *DVM*

Staff Officer  
State Outreach and Technical Assistance Staff  
Office of Outreach, Employee Education and Training  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture  
Patriot Plaza III  
355 E Street, SW - Room 9-257-B  
Washington, DC 20024

(b) (6)

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Chan, Stephanie](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Pink Slime used in burger beef  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:36:17 PM

---

Steph, start keeping a tally of these inquiries please.

----- Original Message -----

From: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:27 PM  
To: Chan, Stephanie; Lavallee, Aaron; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
Cc: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Pink Slime used in burger beef

This is the BPI issue, which (b) (6) mentioned during PAD that there is a meeting planned to discuss this issue within OC tomorrow. We sent another reporter a statement we previously distributed on this topic. Should we continue to distribute that same statement, or is there a decision expected following tomorrow's meeting, if you know? Thanks!

Dirk Fillpot  
Media Supervisor  
Congressional and Public Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Phone: (202) 690-3112  
Cell: (202) 695-9950  
[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

-----Original Message-----

From: Chan, Stephanie  
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:24 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Gaffney, Neil - FSIS  
Subject: FW: Pink Slime used in burger beef

Gents? I know nothing about this, but it sounds lovely...

Stephanie Chan

Deputy Press Secretary, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Desk: (202) 720-5555 | Cell: (202) 256-8626  
[Stephanie.chan@oc.usda.gov](mailto:Stephanie.chan@oc.usda.gov)

Stay Connected with USDA:

-----Original Message-----

From: Brian Shannon [<mailto:bshannon@radio-one.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:13 PM

To: stephanie.chan@usda.gov  
Subject: Pink Slime used in burger beef

Stephanie,

Per our conversation, I am looking to speak with a representative about "Pink Slime", inedible meat treated with ammonia and added as filler in fast food burgers. The USDA claims it is safe.

Here is one story that has broken nationally about this process:

KREM

Posted on January 31, 2012 at 11:07 AM

McDonald's has made a menu change, announcing the restaurant will no longer use a food additive some have dubbed "pink slime."

The food additive is a filler made from spare beef trimmings treated with ammonium hydroxide. The process kills off any bacteria, and it's recently come under fire by critics.

Nicknamed "pink slime," it's been criticized in the news<[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763\\_162-57368380-10391704/mcdonalds-scraps-pink-slime-from-burgers/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763_162-57368380-10391704/mcdonalds-scraps-pink-slime-from-burgers/)>, a major documentary and by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver.

However, McDonald's contends their decision is not based on any particular event.

The USDA has approved the use of ammoniated beef trimmings, stating it is safe.

My deadline is 6:00 p.m. this evening Eastern standard time. Preferably 3:30, 4:30, or 5:30 pm EST.

Thank you,

Brian Shannon

Editor

News 92 FM

KROI-FM, Houston, Tx

www.news92fm.com< <http://www.news92fm.com> >

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime used in hamburger  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:25:44 PM

---

Pink Slime = Good

Green Slime = Bad?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:26 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)@clermson.edu; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime used in hamburger

Dr. (b) (6) do you have any information on this subject? Jim White from Poston Packing company is getting questions from his customers and asked me about it. Thanks

Dr. (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink Slime!  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 9:50:35 PM

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Will send in morning. Shut off computer for night.

(b) (6) DVM

FLS Plover Circuit

(b) (6)

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Sent from BlackBerry

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 08:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime!

At least it's on the label and they're getting a little more calcium and iron. It's actually a calcium and iron fortified product? Why isn't that claim made? Brown and Serve. You know (b) (6) e-mail address? He wants a copy of all the SSOP and SPS noncompliances that he informed me about today. I tried to remember all the stuff he told me but we might have to put our notes together. He wanted to make sure that they were all identified in written corrective actions for Ken.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector-Relief

Plover, WI Circuit 45-21 (Golden Sand)

N4419 Clear Lake Road

Medford, WI 54451-8955

(b) (6)



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 8:34 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime!

Maybe they will change this. You really think the consumer knows what More Delicious



## Chicken or Mucho Delectable Turkey really is?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 8:32 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime!

Truth in Labeling - Not a primary responsibility - just an additional dollar for the beef industry. Extend the beef. I bet this stuff can't be used in pet food. What did they do with this stuff prior BPI? In order to call it beef trimmings it had to contain 12% visible lean years ago. The USDA always gives more than it's worth for commodity stuff. The poultry industry has to declare their pink slime, MDC and MDT.

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Release No. 0094.12

Contact:

Office of Communications (202)720-4623

### **USDA Announces Additional Choices for Beef Products in the Upcoming School Year**

#### ***USDA Affirms Safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef Product for Consumers***

WASHINGTON, March 15, 2012 – In response to requests from school districts across the country, the USDA announced today that it will offer more choices to schools in the National School Lunch Program when it comes to purchases of ground beef products.

USDA only purchases products for the school lunch program that are safe, nutritious and affordable – including all products containing Lean Finely Textured Beef. However, due to customer demand, the department will be adjusting procurement specifications for the next school year so schools can have additional options in procuring ground beef products. USDA will provide schools with a choice to order product either with or without Lean Finely Textured Beef.

USDA continues to affirm the safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef product for all consumers and urges customers to consult science based information on the safety and quality of this product. Lean Finely Textured Beef is a meat product derived from a process which separates fatty pieces from beef trimmings to reduce the overall fat

content.

By law, USDA has two primary responsibilities as part of its mandate to provide safe and nutritious food to the American people. Through the Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA ensures that safety of the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and processed egg products. Through the Food and Nutrition Service and the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA provides food and nutrition assistance through several domestic programs, including the National School Lunch Program.

While USDA sets national nutritional guidelines for school meals, school districts make local decisions on what food to feed kids to meet these guidelines. On average, schools in the National School Lunch Program purchase approximately 20 percent of their food through USDA, and approximately 80 percent of food served is purchased directly by schools or school districts through private vendors. Schools purchase food from the department through the [USDA Foods Program](#), which provides more than 180 nutritious food items that are fresh, frozen, packaged, canned, dried, or in bulk. USDA procures these products based on the demand from schools to help meet the menu planning needs, student taste preferences, school nutrition goals, and local wellness initiatives.

USDA ensures all food purchased for the National School Lunch Program meet stringent food safety standards, which includes rigorous pathogen testing. Purchase specifications are continually reviewed, microbial test results are evaluated, new food safety technologies are considered, and food safety experts are consulted to determine the adequacy of our food safety requirements.

#

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

#

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector-Relief

Plover, WI Circuit 45-21 (Golden Sand)

N4419 Clear Lake Road

Medford, WI 54451-8955

[REDACTED] (b) (6) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime!  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 9:34:30 PM

---

Maybe they will change this. You really think the consumer knows what More Delicious Chicken or Mucho Delectable Turkey really is?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 8:32 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime!

Truth in Labeling - Not a primary responsibility - just an additional dollar for the beef industry. Extend the beef. I bet this stuff can't be used in pet food. What did they do with this stuff prior BPI? In order to call it beef trimmings it had to contain 12% visible lean years ago. The USDA always gives more than it's worth for commodity stuff. The poultry industry has to declare their pink slime, MDC and MDT.

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Release No. 0094.12

Contact:

Office of Communications (202)720-4623

From: [Merle Evans](#)  
To: [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)  
Subject: Re: Pink slime  
Date: Friday, March 09, 2012 6:47:31 PM

---

Sorry to hear you are injured I hope you don't take long to heal. I am setting here just dreading moving. I am getting too old for this crap. I went to work this morning at 4 am so mostly just tired out. We are kicking around the idea of buying a travel trailer or another moterhome as we want to travel some again and we just hate the idea of an apartment for 6 months or so and then another move, it just gets me down. So we are still trying to make up our minds and we need to settle on something very soon. I know the job is a pain but hang in there you will get to an end before too long. I still like having something to do but I don't know how long I will keep at it, I guess probably at least for the time it takes to get another house built.

Feel better soonest, Brant too,  
Merle

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 9, 2012, at 1:59 PM, "[\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)" <[\(b\) \(6\) fsis.usda.gov](#)> wrote:

> Good luck with the house business. IT can be such a pain. Glad you sold the one you have now. I know I'll want something much smaller for the next move. The way I'm feeling now It's likely to be assisted living!!!! No, I was out with the dogs at 5am, not paying enough attention and tripped over the end of one lounge chair bashing my right shin, fell on the other lounge chair bruising my left hand (swollen and black and blue - but I don't think it is broken). Well, as the week has gone on I realize I hit my head in several places (probably on the arms of the chair) my upper arms are bruised as is my chest. UGH, I am aching something terrible. Then I'm playing nurse maid still to [\(b\) \(6\)](#) from his foot surgery. I think because he is retired he has no reason to get up, move, drive himself.....So I'm fetching this, feeding him that, ice packs, doctors visits.....Well, I'm sick of work and don't mind a few hours off early.....

>

> We did just advertise one job and hope to get another one out. But I go up for 2 weeks April 1 for LSAS training (electronic label submission - you know how well that will work) don't get me started.....

>

> Guess I'm just feeling sorry for myself:(

>

> [\(b\) \(6\)](#)

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Merle Evans [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\) @gmail.com](#)]

> Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 2:53 PM

> To: [\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)

> Subject: Re: Pink slime

>

> Thanks it's just gross as ways we are fine but it has turned chilly here for the last 2 days of course we have not really had any winter anyway so things are greening up around here We have sold the house and are thinking of building a smaller one just a few miles away but we are still talking it over

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Mar 9, 2012, at 1:24 PM, "[\(b\) \(6\) - FSIS](#)" <[\(b\) \(6\) fsis.usda.gov](#)> wrote:

>

>> Are you kidding?? It is the BPI finely textured beef that is treated with ammonia. Let's see, [\(b\) \(6\)](#) were about the 50th people from DC to go see the stuff, and Ron said it went in white and came out red. It's pretty much fat with a little lean, that is heated, centrifuged and becomes finely textured beef or beef. YUCK. [\(b\) \(6\)](#) at Olson, Frank and Weeda were all involved (that god Jeff is involved and not me). [\(b\) \(4\)](#)

>>  
>> (b) (6)  
>>  
>> PS How are things in Texas? It has been a very warm winter, it's in the 80's again today. That is ok, better this than ice.  
>>  
>> -----Original Message-----  
>> From: Merle Evans [mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com]  
>> Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 2:10 PM  
>> To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
>> Subject: Pink slime  
>>  
>> Hi (b) (6)  
>> What is this "pink slime" I'm hearing about in ground beef? Do you know anything about it?  
>> Thanks  
>>  
>> Sent from my iPhone  
>> This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.  
>>  
>  
>

**From:** [Mike](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re/ Pink Slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:17:48 AM

---

Thank you for responding by sending me the USDA form letter regarding pink slime in school food programs.

At this time I find the USDA rhetoric contained in this letter regarding this topic both weak with an appearance of government cover-up. It is obvious that the beef industry has USDA in its pockets and that for years now, we consumers have been fed a bunch of bull not fit for human consumption. The USDA arguments fall short for many reasons. One of these is the fact that consumers have paid full value prices for by-products. Another fact is that pink slime needs to be gassed whereas other beef products do not require the ammonia-gas process. Crappy meat products such that go into pink slime remain crappy meat products and we the public do not want these disguised and processed into what we have been told is something else. USDA is guilty of non-disclosure on many counts and far as I am personally concerned, USDA has become a sham. A class-action suit against USDA would get my full support and I dare say it would get the support of millions of other consumers who no longer have any respect for who and what you have become. No amount of fluff produced in a form letter will change the facts, so if you think a letter of this type serves anything but to cover up your irresponsibility, you are completely wrong.

Regards,  
Mike Stanley

**From:** [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:48:47 PM

---

*May be this should go to FNS!*

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:24 PM  
**To:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

Our press office is asking me about pink slime and school lunch. I just googled pink slime. Have we heard a lot about this?

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office: 202-690-6600

Fax: 202-690-6364

E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:56:11 AM

---

Reliable used that stuff for a while. When you opened the cases, it stunk up the whole processing room.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/?rss=rss-wabc-snippet-7091254>

Well here we go again!

Next week's problem!

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector - Relief

Duty Station:

Damn Good Foods Inc.

312 A North Hudson Ave.

Stillwater, NY 12170

Cell (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:14:02 PM

---

That and countless other "ingredients" deemed edible by us. Things are cheap for a reason. Have you ever hung out on Myrtle? I went across the street to buy smokes and talk about ghetto.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** pink slime

Talking about Pink Slime, I wonder if any of the people all worked up about it ever saw some of the dumpling fillings? But I bet they love dumplings, because they are so "authentic" and exotic and so definitely not American.

(b) (6)

*Brooklyn, New York*

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:16:55 PM

---

The store will grind meat for you?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 1:03 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Pink slime

I don't know what it is. I saw it on tv too. I don't believe it. If you question that its being done and you want burger, ask the store to grind you some off of a whole cut of meat. Then you don't need to worry about it.  
(b) (6), Supervisory Compliance Investigator USDA, FSIS, OPEER, CID  
21660 E. Copley Drive, Suite 170  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765  
(b) (6) (Direct Office)  
(b) (6) (BB)

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Handheld

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**From:** [Cutshall, Mary - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:08:32 AM

---

Interesting.

Mary K. Cutshall  
Director, Emergency Coordination Staff  
Data Integration and Food Protection  
FSIS, USDA  
Room 9-140 Patriots Plaza Bldg  
Mail Stop 3793  
Washington, DC 20250  
Telephone: 202-690-6523  
BB 202-255-1167  
Fax: 202-690-6459  
[mary.cutshall@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:mary.cutshall@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 9:48 AM  
**To:** Cutshall, Mary - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Under Secretary was Joann Smith and she stepped down in 1993 and went to work for BPI immediately. Here are the articles:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>  
<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/where-you-can-get-pink-slime-free-beef/>

(b) (6)  
Senior Emergency Response Specialist  
USDA/FSIS  
Office of Data Integration and Food Protection  
Emergency Coordination Staff  
Rm. 9-143A Patriot Plaza 3  
Mail Stop 3793  
Phone (b) (6)  
BB (b) (6)  
FAX 202-690-6459

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If

The first step in the process is to identify the problem. This involves gathering information about the situation and the people involved. Once the problem is identified, the next step is to analyze it. This involves breaking the problem down into its component parts and determining the causes of the problem. The third step is to develop a plan of action. This involves determining the steps that need to be taken to solve the problem. The fourth step is to implement the plan. This involves putting the plan into action and monitoring the progress. The fifth step is to evaluate the results. This involves determining whether the problem has been solved and whether the plan was effective.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:51:25 PM

---

Well ammonia hydroxide that is used in the process doesn't sound appetizing. But I just wanted you to listen to how this Jamie Oliver ripped on USDA. Like we don't care what goes into food.

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector

Akron, OH

Office: (b) (6)

Cell : (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 1:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Had a hard time trying to bring the video up, but I have been deposed by family and friends enough about "pink slime" that I can probably give my opinion on it. Do I think it's safe? Yes. Do I think someone is trying to scare the public by calling it "pink slime"? Yes. One of the whistle blowers was a trainer of mine way back when. Carl Custer. I think it's just another way for industry to extend their inventory and make a buck. I wish it doesn't have to come to this, but it's industry at its best and reality. I don't allow neither of my kids to consume beef/hamburgers. Their little immune systems are not match for tainted product. So, I'm not worried about it. I hear there may be a directive coming out soon on it. Stay tuned!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:40 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime

What do you think?

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector

Akron, OH

Office: (b) (6)

Cell : (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wshlnRWnf30>

(b) (6)

Consumer Safety Inspector

Akron, OH

Office: (b) (6)

Cell : (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:55:19 AM

---

**HAHA I like these! Not once did anybody comment on FSIS! They are so misinformed and the last one? Not sure that is true, where do you find so many beavers????**

The FDA is a joke and a HUGE waste of taxpayers' money. Needs to be disbanded. "Most" inspectors are more than likely in the pockets of the food manufacturers, distributors, etc they are inspecting.

**Posted by: Sandra | March 7, 2012, 8:21 pm 8:21 pm**

To those who say "Let the industry police itself"... that's how it used to be. They used "everything but the squeal" back in those days... bad/sick animals, dirt, dead rats, sweepings, etc. People got SICK from the food and died. That's why the FDA was created, to fix the problem. It's not perfect, but it's a lot better than it was. If we go back to the industry policing itself, we'll go back to anything and everything in our food...

**Posted by: Sharon | March 7, 2012, 11:36 pm 11:36 pm**

This kind of thing has been exposed before. Required reading in my English class in high school was Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle" from 1906, which paved the way for the Pure Food and Drug Act one hundred years ago. Then came the FDA. So, why isn't the Pure Food and Drug Act being enforced? Probably because it has been watered down from pressure from the food industry? How about some more investigative reporting, ABC News? Find out what happened.

**Posted by: EJ | March 8, 2012, 4:21 am 4:21 am**

Why is everyone making such a big deal about this now. Jamie oliver told us about this on his show food reveloution about a year ago. you should also look into a ingredient called Castoreum. It is found in many foods including vanella ice cream. It is listed on the label as natural flavorings. Castoreum is rendered beaver anal gland. I have been saying for years that the FDA is nothing but a big scam. They will do anything they can to keep getting money. Why do you think we can not advertise about some foods helping to preventing cancer and blood pressure. Cause if people found out the truth then the FDA would loose billions of dollers. on all the meds people take to control these issues.

**Posted by: Dean | March 8, 2012, 8:07 pm 8:07 pm**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:13 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime



Here a few of the commits I really liked, there are so many uneducated people out there that think the government is out to destroy this country. I am def going to research this a little more to get a better understanding of this process.

I can't believe they are filling ground beef w/ what is in fact actual beef.

Moreover, I can't believe this actual beef is treated in a manner so that it doesn't contain any bacteria that may make people sick. THE HORROR!!!

-And to top off this offense, the former undersecretary of agriculture, Joann Smith, got a job in the meat industry and then received \$1.2 million over 17 years. OH MY GOD!!! That comes out to \$70,600/year. This woman made \$6000 more per year than the median salary for Maryland residents. I AM SHOCKED!!!

-I am so glad ABC reported on this non-story and hyped it up to scare the crap out of me.

-(As much as I dislike Sarah Palin and Newt Gingrich, in this case, this is a perfect example of what they would refer to as the lame stream media creating a biased slanted story.)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

**Posted by: David Levin | March 8, 2012, 5:26 pm 5:26 pm**

So,ABC, what has the USDA done about this in the nine years since Undersecretary Smith left? Are we to assume the new people are as corrupt as you imply Smith is (with no evidence)? OR is this just more yellow journalism? How about some facts instead of innuendo based on unsubstantiated nine year old complaints by former employees?

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

**Posted by: Mark | March 8, 2012, 5:58 pm 5:58 pm**

When I was a kid, teachers always applauded the economy and ingenuity of native Americans who put every bit of the bison to use, in contrast with the evil railroad hunters who piled up mountains of bison bones.

Now we are told that valuable protein should be sent to the landfill because... why?

Make up your minds, people!

By the way, \$1.2 million is a lot of money, but not over 17 years. Above average, but not 1% material.

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

**Posted by: Doug | March 8, 2012, 6:08 pm 6:08 pm**

Our food supply is the safest in the world. USDA strictly regulates all packing facilities and operations. I interned with Cargill last summer and saw this firsthand. FTB is a very safe method of creating lean ground beef. Yes they are trimmings but the fat is burned off. What's left? Ground beef.. I really wish people would realize that we have the lowest per capita food spending in the world! When food prices start to rise, then maybe you will complain a little less. In 2050 the population is going to double. We are going to have to create twice the amount of food with 70% of the resources, so technology like this is going to have to be utilized. I am an American beef producer. I work hard every day taking care of my cattle and I am proud to say I am helping feed the world. If you all understood the hard work and dedication required of a farmer, then you might have an argument. We have the most wholesome and safest food supply in the world.

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

Posted by: Morgan | March 8, 2012, 6:55 pm 6:55 pm

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:45 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Hey watch it I'm Obese! I highly doubt it is 70% also & they are just like most who left USDA, (we know first hand) things are fine when they're drawing a paycheck every 2 weeks but now USDA is soooo wrong

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:41 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Yea, that's the first thing I thought of too. I have been researching PINKSLIME this morning, I have a lot of mixed feelings on this subject. Considering that it has been going on since 1972 and now they are making a big stink about it. I saw at the bottom in the commits someone stated "no wonder I'm obese", PPL like that are obese cause they can't control their intake of food and lack of exercise. I am wondering also why are these retired USDA FSIS scientist are now bringing this up.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime

Thanks I had not seen that, the best part was when they talked about the under secretary joining that company, and how ethically it's not legal now'

That reminded me of (b) (6) joining Cudlin's HAHA

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:15 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Just wondering if you have seen this in the news.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

(b) (6) CSI-11C

*USDA-FSIS OFO*

*Cadlin's Market*

*8 Cox Rd.*

*Newfield N.Y. 14867*

**(b) (6)** [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** [Schwarz, Lisa - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:57:17 AM

---

*Sounds Gross*

(b) (6)  
*Administrative Secretary III  
N. C. Department of Public Safety  
Prisons - Deputy Director's Office  
831 W. Morgan Street / MSC 4261  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4261  
Te: (b) (6)  
Fax: 919-733-8272  
E-Mail: (b) (6) @ncdps.gov  
[www.ncdps.gov](http://www.ncdps.gov)*

---

**From:** Schwarz, Lisa - FSIS [Lisa.Schwarz@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

<http://technorati.com/women/article/pink-slime-is-pulled-from-grocery/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink\\_slime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink_slime)

Although in the collegial world, we are taught not to use wiki for knowledge based information or research. It was the only site that broke it down to barney level. My boss explained it this way too me today, the way wiki did.

Just an FYI

*Lisa M. Schwarz  
Administrative Assistant I  
Head Quarters  
MPID, NC Dept of Agric. and CS  
Office 919-733-0167  
Fax 919-715-0182*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 8:34:14 AM

---

You can't win. A safe product is a problem because it looks 'unappetizing'.

A dead animal looks unappetizing too. Let's hope that they don't find out that is where the meat comes from.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 26, 2012 7:50 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime

Good Article on facts. << File: PinkSlimeArticle.mht >>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Realdine Joseph - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:24 03 AM

---

Got Slim? It does the body good. ☺

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

EE# (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:03 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

Who U gonna call? Slime busters....

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:19 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; FSIS - FO/DO15/Front Line Supervisors  
**Cc:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS; Reeder, Robert - FSIS; Wagner, Scott - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

Yes I agree, I was just putting it out there to show how this was getting spun so to speak. I do appreciate the additional information, I will pass it own for other to review.

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

EE# (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:41:26 AM

---

That is part of the ghost buster's job, right. Go Beluchi

**Dr. (b) (6), FLS Boise Circuit**

**1038 W. Loon St.**

**Meridian, Idaho, 83642**

**Home (b) (6)**

**Cell (b) (6)**

**Fax 208-288-4280**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:03 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

Who U gonna call? Slime busters....

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:24:19 PM

---

☺ take care

(b) (6)

*USDA, FSIS, OFO*

*Livingston Frontline Supervisor*

*Alameda District*

*P.O. Box 3152*

*Turlock, CA 95381*

*Phone* (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:06 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

Why not, slim, it's what's for supper. ☺

(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

*EE#* (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:40 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

Thanks (b) (6) yes while reviewing the footage I was thinking about how one sided the information was and the process that they described. Still don't want to eat it though.

(b) (6)

*USDA, FSIS, OFO*

*Livingston Frontline Supervisor*

*Alameda District*

*P.O. Box 3152*

*Turlock, CA 95381*

*Phone* (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)

(b) (6) FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime - the other side of the story on LFTB

FYI, additional information you may not hear on the news.



(b) (6)

*Frontline Supervisor*

*Salt Lake Circuit*

*Denver District*

SS# (b) (6)

**From:** [Erin Chavez](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime article  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:26:15 PM

---

Probably no movie since (b) (6) concert is tonight. I don't think we have a frozen pizza.

Thanks for finding info about the meat!

I haven't been feeling well all day. :(

On Mar 22, 2012 3:00 PM, (b) (6) - FSIS" (b) (6) [@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)> wrote:

I asked a guy about that. He was well aware of it. It is the product of digesting scrap and fatty tissues in a solution that kills pathogens and breaks down the proteins. The proteins (the good parts of the crappy scrap) are extracted from the bulk digest for consumption. It looks like pink slime when it is done. It is a way to use even more of the carcass. It sounds gross but is nothing new. I will look for an article that will better explain the process of extracting the good protein from the bulk scrap meat.

Pizza is fine. A movie sounds good. I am draggin ass and don't feel like doing a damn think—like thinking.

---

**From:** Erin Chavez [mailto:(b) (6) [@gmail.com](mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:08 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink slime article

<http://www.wfaa.com/home/pink-slime-5pm-143721896.html>

Articles like this are popping up all over- thats why I asked if you knew anything about it. Emily W. posted this one on FB. It seems like the "pink slime" has been used for a long time and it's just popping up as a controversy now. I don't know much about it though...kind of reminds me of controversy with GMO, where everyone is jumping on bandwagon without all info...but I don't really know.

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime as topic in Ask Karen?  
**Date:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:30:49 AM

---

I can't seem to keep the "pink slime/ammonia" issue separate from the TG enzyme issue. I have been forwarding all emails to ECIMS related to any "controversial" topic like that so I haven't been keeping up with the latest news. Now I'm going to have to educate myself again.

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:22 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime as topic in Ask Karen?

Hi

This is the first time I hear about this topic ☹ I asked (b) (6) if maybe CPA can provide more information....we can come up with an answer from the info they send..hopefully.

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime as topic in Ask Karen?

Hi (b) (6)

I have a few Ask Karen emails about the "pink slime" issue. Do we have it as a topic in Ask Karen, at least for our recording purposes. I can't remember and can't find it if I did?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) **RD RN**

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](https://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime by USDA Design  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:49:12 AM

---

yes

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:49 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime by USDA Design

Can you call now?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime by USDA Design

When did you want to talk about the progress report?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:47 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime by USDA Design

No, in a few short months he will be all yours...

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime by USDA Design

Did you receive this?

---

**From:** John Munsell [mailto:(b) (6)@midrivers.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 25, 2012 3:55 PM  
**To:** ";"  
**Subject:** Pink Slime by USDA Design

Everyone:

The media has been awash with a plethora of articles about "***Pink Slime***", referring to treatment of beef trimmings with ammonia hydroxide. I suggest that the real issue is not the chemical treatment, but why such treatments are deemed necessary on meat coursing through commerce in containers proudly bearing the official USDA Mark of Inspection. Realizing these trimmings had already been "USDA Inspected and Passed", how can the agency classify such trimmings as "High Risk", and why must these approved trimmings be further purified? Last Friday, Food Safety News published my article which addresses these troubling questions. You won't like what you read.

John

<http://johnmunsell.com/blog/?p=100>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Calls -- follow-up--  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:07:44 PM

---

(b) (6)

I went back, and it's actually 8 (not sure where I got the '13')—so that comes closer to your number (of 7)

(b) (6) =3 ; IO =2; SK=1; NS=1; AM= 1

Found them in my 'deleted' e-mails from yesterday--

Glad you checked – good catch!

Thanks (b) (6)

-----  
(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Calls

Hi (b) (6)

I only see that 7 calls were recorded related to the ammonium hydroxide issue yesterday. I thought you said there were 13? Is that number for calls, chats and emails or just calls?

Perhaps folks recorded them under a different topic or subtopic than what I had suggested. I know it's not technically an additive but for consistency purposes I need to keep that as the category. I just want to make sure we are capturing all the stats correctly.



Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) **RD RN**

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D

5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705

Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)



When you get an irate caller who is complaining that USDA should require labeling on products containing Ammonium Hydroxide (pink slime), here is a response you can give. This will very often diffuse an irate caller. All they really want is to be heard and register their complaint. If they think they are being heard they will calm down almost immediately. You can use this style of response for other irate callers as well. Always tell them (and it's true) that we are recording their concern. You do not have to use this wording verbatim:

"I understand your concern about the labeling of products that contain Ammonium Hydroxide. We record each call in our database and I have entered your concerns. The Agency periodically reviews our database and they will see your concern that you have registered."

Diane Van  
Deputy Director, Food Safety Education Staff

Office of Public Affairs & Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service  
5601 Sunnyside Ave., 2-L292  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301-344-4777 Phone  
301-504-0203 Fax  
202-306-3857 Blackberry

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" calls  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:20:48 AM

---

Thanks (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 'pink slime' calls

I got one yesterday.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** 'pink slime' calls

Let me know how many calls you've got this week so far on 'pink slime' calls—

We'd like to know these numbers some time before 8:45 am this morning.

Thank you all

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6) [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] ialist

[redacted] e, Mailstop 5269

[redacted] 0

[redacted] : (b) (6) [redacted]  
[redacted] (b) (6) [redacted] fsis.usda [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted]

**From:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" calls  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:26:49 AM

---

Good morning,

I received about 4 calls in regards to the Ammonium Hydroxide ("Pink Slime") issue.

V/R,

(b) (6) MPH

LCDR, US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps  
Technical Information Specialist (Bilingual)  
USDA/FSIS/ FSE  
Room 2L244-C  
5601 Sunnyside Ave  
Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6) Fax: 301-504-2092

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

The mission of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of the Nation.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** 'pink slime' calls

Let me know how many calls you've got this week so far on 'pink slime' calls—

We'd like to know these numbers some time before 8:45 am this morning.

Thank you all

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269  
Beltsville, MD 20705-5000  
Phone: (b) (6)  
E-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: "pink slime" calls  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:39:25 AM

---

Ok, thanks

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:31 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: 'pink slime' calls

I only had one on Tuesday.

(b) (6)

*Food Safety Specialist*

USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff

2-L248C, MS- 5269

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

(b) (6)

**Need Food Safety Answers?**

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline 1-888-674-6854

or Visit our web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:17 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) ,

(b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** 'pink slime' calls

Let me know how many calls you've got this week so far on 'pink slime' calls—

We'd like to know these numbers some time before 8:45 am this morning.

Thank you all

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA/FSIS

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Phone: 3 (b) (6)

E-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Calls  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:02:42 PM

---

Hi (b) (6)

I had sent out an e-mail asking them what calls they got on 'pink slime'

Based on their responses (calls only) i added up a total of 13.

I checked them later about chats and they said they had no chats on this subject.

Wondering if they didn't all log theirs in ..?

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:24 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Calls

Hi (b) (6)

I only see that 7 calls were recorded related to the ammonium hydroxide issue yesterday. I thought you said there were 13? Is that number for calls, chats and emails or just calls?

Perhaps folks recorded them under a different topic or subtopic than what I had suggested. I know it's not technically an additive but for consistency purposes I need to keep that as the category. I just want to make sure we are capturing all the stats correctly.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D

5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705

Phone (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Calls  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:05:13 AM

---

I like it. I can translate it and add it to the Spanish std text.

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Calls

What do you think of this to add to Ask Karen Standard Text for chat (see below)?

(I combined Brian's statement and Diane's, modifying Diane's for chat service)

Please feel free to edit. I was stumbling over how we should respond about recording chats in our database. After you look at it then I can send it to Diane, (b) (6) and Kathy for comments.

"All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.

We have a record of your concern in our chat database. The Agency periodically reviews our database and they will see your concern that you have registered."

(b) (6) RD RN  
Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:32 AM

**To:** Van, Diane - FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Calls

Thank you Diane

This is very helpful to have for this and future 'challenging' calls

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:(b) (6)@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Van, Diane - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:30 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Tuverson, Robert - FSIS

**Subject:** Pink Slime Calls

Hotline Staff,

When you get an irate caller who is complaining that USDA should require labeling on products containing Ammonium Hydroxide (pink slime), here is a response you can give. This will very often diffuse an irate caller. All they really want is to be heard and register their complaint. If they think they are being heard they will calm down almost immediately. You can use this style of response for other irate callers as well. Always tell them (and it's true) that we are recording their concern. You do not have to use this wording verbatim:

"I understand your concern about the labeling of products that contain Ammonium Hydroxide. We record each call in our database and I have entered your concerns. The Agency periodically reviews our database and they will see your concern that you have registered."

Diane Van  
Deputy Director, Food Safety Education Staff

Office of Public Affairs & Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service  
5601 Sunnyside Ave., 2-L292  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301-344-4777 Phone  
301-504-0203 Fax  
202-306-3857 Blackberry

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**To:** (b) (6) - OSEC; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; Christenson, Daniel - OSEC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; DeJong, Justin - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Cc:** O'Connor, Tim - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:21:45 PM

---

SNP is available.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:16 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - OSEC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; DeJong, Justin - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Cc:** O'Connor, Tim - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** Re: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A

I think a call is a good idea, are people available at 4:45pm today? If so, Aaron can send around call-in info.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:08 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; DeJong, Justin - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Cc:** O'Connor, Tim - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A

Looping in (b) (6)

**Ashlee Nicole Johnson**

Office of Congressional Relations

U.S. Department of Agriculture

(202) 720-2413

[Ashlee.Johnson@osec.usda.gov](mailto:Ashlee.Johnson@osec.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:06 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FNS; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; DeJong, Justin - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; (b) (6) - AMS  
**Cc:** O'Connor, Tim - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A

Looping additional individuals. Over the last week we have taken steps to help the dust settle across public audiences because the dialogue and discourse from customers, stakeholders, and media was not at a productive place - further fueled by the online frenzy. This frenzy is slowing down.

On the communications side we have shared solid details where we have them and only as needed as this is still unfolding. We have avoided stepping out with excessive details that will only amplify the stories.

Is there a balance we can find between handing out more information immediately to wider audiences and settling this down?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:55 AM  
**To:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC; Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC; (b) (6) - OSEC  
**Cc:** O'Connor, Tim - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A

All,

We notified Ashlee yesterday of the need to have a coordinated departmental phone call on this issue. At this point, we are not sure who is the lead for the development and distribution of this type of information on LFTB, it is clearly not our regions and in fact, we did not participate in the talking points below. I can only restate the need for a phone call on this issue today, both (b) (6) and SNP are feeling very exposed on this, we are trying to response to just our customer's need for information and realize this is leading to additional concerns. Happy to arrange a call with all USDA parties, let me know if I should proceed.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Cc:** O'Connor, Tim - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A

(b) (6)

Do you know anything about a conference call on LFTB happening today?

Bruce

**Bruce C. Alexander**  
**Director, Communications & Governmental Affairs**

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Food & Nutrition Service  
3101 Park Center Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22302  
(703) 305-2281 (office)  
[Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Bruce.Alexander@fns.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Cc:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A

We are holding on this for now – the story is slowing down and we are trying not to push this further.

We are trying to track down a conference call that FNS is doing today with schools on LFTB – do you guys know anything about this?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FNS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:33 AM  
**To:** Lavalley, Aaron - OC  
**Cc:** Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A  
**Importance:** High

Hi Aaron,

Following up to see if you had an opportunity to review? Our speechwriter is hoping to incorporate in a briefing book that is due at noon today.

Thanks, (b) (6)

Hi Aaron,

Our SERO put these together based on OC's responses on pink slime. Please see below for review. Thanks, Hans

**LEAN FINE TEXTURED BEEF OR "PINK SLIME" (TREATED WITH AMMONIUM HYDROXIDE)**

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP), administered by the USDA, purchases approximately 20 percent of the products served in schools across the country. In other words, the majority, approximately 80 percent, is purchased by schools or school districts directly through private vendors and not USDA. In its role as the purchasing agent, to quantify how much of a particular product purchased by USDA is served



in specific school districts or specific schools is difficult to measure and depends upon a case by case or even school-by-school basis. Procurement officials for schools may have this information.

Since the early 1990s, Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) has been allowed as a component of the ground beef purchased by USDA for distribution through the NSLP. The maximum allowable percentage of LFTB that may be formulated into single servings of the ground beef purchased for the NSLP is 15 percent, which is similar to the composition found in many commercially available ground beef products. USDA does not purchase LFTB directly. Rather, LFTB may be used as a raw material in USDA-purchased ground beef products after it undergoes stringent testing. Of the ground beef purchased by USDA in 2011 for the NSLP, LFTB comprised approximately 6.5 percent of the total volume.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration as well as the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) considers ammonium hydroxide as “generally recognized as safe.” FSIS reviewed the suitability of Beef Products, Inc.’s (BPI) use of ammonium hydroxide in order to assess its effectiveness in performing the intended technical purpose of use, at the lowest level necessary, and to ensure that the product is not adulterated or misleading to consumers.

All USDA beef purchases for the NSLP and other Federal food and nutrition assistance programs meet very high food safety standards, which include stringent pathogen testing. Beef supplied by BPI as a component of the beef products purchased by USDA for the NSLP is subject to the same strict pathogen testing requirements for beef raw ingredients.

Additional information on this product or product specific inquiries should be directed to BPI at <http://www.beefproducts.com/>.

### **Q and A's**

“All USDA ground beef purchases for the National School Lunch Program must meet the highest standards for food safety. This includes stringent pathogen testing and compliance with all applicable food safety regulations. USDA would only allow products into commerce or especially into schools that we have confidence are safe.”

#### **Question:**

Does USDA continue to believe this product is safe? Why does USDA permit its use in beef purchased for school foods?

#### **Answer:**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration as well as the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) considers ammonium hydroxide as “generally recognized as safe.” FSIS reviewed the suitability of Beef Products, Inc.’s (BPI) use of ammonium hydroxide in order to assess its effectiveness in performing the intended technical purpose of use, at the lowest level necessary, and to ensure that the product is not adulterated or misleading to consumers. BPI provided data to both FDA and FSIS to satisfy these concerns regarding its use of ammonium hydroxide.

All USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) beef purchases for the NSLP and other Federal food and nutrition assistance programs meet very high food safety standards, which include stringent pathogen testing. Beef supplied by BPI for the NSLP is not exempt from AMS’ strict pathogen testing requirements. Additionally, USDA has a zero tolerance for Salmonella and E. coli O157:H7 in all AMS beef purchases for the NSLP which includes testing both the raw materials and the finished product. Beef that tests positive for these organisms is rejected and is diverted from the Federal purchase program.

In order to ensure that the food provided to schools through the NSLP is safe and healthy, AMS requires the raw material supplier plants develop technical proposals, or written quality management procedures, that address their food safety strategy, including microbiological sampling procedures that address AMS purchase requirements. These technical proposals must be reviewed and approved by AMS before product is ever tested and supplied. In addition, these plants are audited quarterly by AMS for compliance with their documented quality management program. In order to provide a higher level of confidence in the system, AMS requires all finished products to be tested, using samples selected under direct AMS supervision. Importantly, FSIS Inspectors are on duty during the plants approved hours of operation.

**Question:**

Is USDA doing anything to respond to concerns about the product by schools, the food service industry, the public? If so, what?

**Answer:**

USDA’s food safety focus is on prevention. In fact, USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced this year that it is establishing a zero tolerance policy for six additional strains of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC). In addition to E. coli O157:H7, which already is prohibited, raw ground beef, its components, and tenderized steaks found to contain the other strains we are declaring adulterants will also be prohibited from sale to consumers. USDA will launch a testing program to detect these dangerous pathogens and prevent them from reaching consumers in March 2012. Additionally, FSIS has announced its

intentions to establish a new “test and hold” policy to require facilities to hold product until microbiological testing can determine it is safe to release into commerce. This policy will significantly reduce consumer exposure to unsafe meat products by prohibiting products from being distributed until FSIS test results for dangerous contaminants are known. Having this policy in place would have prevented 44 Class I recalls – one of which involved two illnesses – between 2007 and 2009. Ammonium hydroxide is effective in reducing the presence of harmful bacteria in raw beef, especially E. coli O157:H7, when used appropriately.

**Question:**

How much of the ground beef purchased by USDA-AMS contains the BPI product?

**Answer:**

This year, 111,556,000 pounds of ground beef have been contracted for the National School Lunch Program. Of that amount, BPI’s product comprises approximately 7 million pounds – or approximately 6.5 percent. At no time will any ground beef finished product consist of more than 15 percent of Lean Fine Textured Beef.

**Question:**

I understand that USDA-FSIS is developing fact sheets on ammonium hydroxide and other interventions. What is the intended audience of these fact sheets? Why is this being done? For what interventions are they being prepared and how were those selected?

**Answer:**

FSIS is undertaking an initiative to develop plain language fact sheets about all the new technology applications that FSIS has reviewed and approved. These fact sheets are intended to provide general information about the new technology, including: How it is used in food processing, the approval process, how it works to kill pathogens. FSIS expects to complete the fact sheet when the new technology is approved and post the information to the FSIS webpage. For new technologies already approved, FSIS is in the process of prioritizing development of the fact sheets and expects to have the project completed later this fiscal year. FSIS will post the fact sheets as they are completed, not all at the same time.

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:30:21 PM

---

Wow.

***Carol Blake***

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
Room 339-E Whitten Building  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Fax: (202) 205-0301  
Cell: (b) (6)  
[carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:carol.blake@fsis.usda.gov)  
<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>  
<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

---

**From:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:23 PM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Cc:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A

Carol,

Wanted to give you a heads up. Not sure if you need to be on the call – I'll wait for Dirk to come back from PAD with the download from Aaron – but wanted to flag for you. FNS has been a problem all the way throughout this exercise in that they have not been in sync with the rest of us.

We learned a little earlier today that FNS is having a conference call at 1:30 PM today with stakeholders on this topic – and by learned, I mean that Jarvis got an inquiry from the NY Times asking to listen in.

Best ~ Brian

**Brian K. Mabry**  
***Acting Director, Congressional and Public Affairs***  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1175-South Building  
direct dial 202.720.9891  
tel. 202.720.9113 | fax 202.690.0460

[Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.Mabry@fsis.usda.gov)  
[www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - OSEC

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:16 PM

**To:** Johnson, Ashlee - OSEC; Lavallee, Aaron - OC; (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - OSEC; Jarvis, Michael - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; (b) (6) - AMS; DeJong, Justin - OC; Rowe, Courtney - OC; (b) (6) - AMS

**Cc:** (b) (6) - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Alexander, Bruce - FNS; (b) (6) - FNS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS; Mabry, Brian - FSIS; (b) (6) - OSEC

**Subject:** Re: Pink slime draft talking points/Q&A

I think a call is a good idea, are people available at 4:45pm today? If so, Aaron can send around call-in info.

(b) (6)

**From:** [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Final Letter  
**Date:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:28:54 AM

---

Since you do the preliminary reviews of all finals, so probably overlooked.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 1163-South Building  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945

Cell: (202) 503-7113  
Fax: (202) 205-0158

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:27 AM  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Final Letter

I haven't had any of these come way but I will, should I finalize any. Thanks

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:19 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Final Letter

Team:

It is imperative that you pay closer attention to our final reviews. There is a typo in one of the cleared, signed letters that Dan has authorized us to autopen. (b) (6) could you please update that paragraph, and (b) (6) and (b) (6) please give your closest attention towards reviewing and uncovering these types of errors. See paragraph below:

In 2001, FSIS concluded that this use of ammonia was consistent with FDA's definition of a processing aid and was not required to be listed on the label. The use of ammonia to treat boneless beef trimmings provides a momentary effect of a reduction of bacteria, but does not prevent the recontamination of the product. It also does not suppress the outgrowth of any cells of the pathogen that survive the treatment. In addition, data submitted to FSIS showed that

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director

ECIMS-Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 1163-South Building  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945

Cell: (202) 503-7113

Fax: (202) 205-0158

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Final Letter  
**Date:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:48:27 AM

---

Will do...Thanks

(b) (6)

*Executive Correspondence and*

*Issues Management Staff*

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(Desk) (b) (6)

(Fax) 202-720-7609

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

**TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION.**

**BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE**

*DR. MARTIN L. KING*

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Final Letter

No need; it's already been used on several items that probably have been emailed. (b) (6) has corrected; just need you to be on the lookout for these types of errors going forward.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director

ECIMS-Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 1163-South Building  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945

Cell: (202) 503-7113  
Fax: (202) 205-0158



---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:47 AM  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Final Letter

I take responsibility for missing that spacing in the letter. Will go back and correct .

(b) (6)

*Executive Correspondence and*

*Issues Management Staff*

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(Desk) (b) (6)

(Fax) 202-720-7609

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

**TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION.**

**BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE**

*DR. MARTIN L. KING*

---

**From:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:19 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime Final Letter

Team:

It is imperative that you pay closer attention to our final reviews. There is a typo in one of the cleared, signed letters that Dan has authorized us to autopen. (b) (6) could you please update that paragraph, and (b) (6) and (b) (6) please give your closest attention towards reviewing and uncovering these types of errors. See paragraph below:

In 2001, FSIS concluded that this use of ammonia was consistent with FDA's definition of a processing aid and was not required to be listed on the label. The use of ammonia to treat boneless beef trimmings provides a momentary effect of a reduction of bacteria, but does not prevent the recontamination of the product. It also does not suppress the outgrowth of any cells of the pathogen that survive the treatment. In addition, data submitted to FSIS showed that

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director

ECIMS-Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 1163-South Building  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945

Cell: (202) 503-7113

Fax: (202) 205-0158

**From:** [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Leach, Alicemary - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Final Letter  
**Date:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:39:03 AM

---

Great; thank you (b) (6)

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 1163-South Building  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945

Cell: (202) 503-7113  
Fax: (202) 205-0158

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:39 AM  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Final Letter

Hello Rene,

Great catch! I have updated that paragraph.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

*"Building Strong Working Relationships Makes a Great Team"*

**From:** [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Final Letter  
**Date:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:24:14 AM  
**Attachments:** [Signed copy of Chrisdzl@yahoo.com Pink Slime 7144229\[2\].docx](#)

---

I'm reviewing 7146962, which had the typo. Also, the cleared signed letter uploaded in that same ECM folder (attached as 7144229 "campaign") also has the typo (see last paragraph on page 1).

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 1163-South Building  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945

Cell: (202) 503-7113  
Fax: (202) 205-0158

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 10:19 AM  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Final Letter

What's the control number/folder?

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1162-S  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Cardwell, Rene - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Leach, Alicemary - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Final Letter  
**Date:** Friday, February 10, 2012 11:04:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [Nychewy@gmail.com-Pink Slime Campaign letter\[1\]\[1\].docx](#)  
[Craig Gaspara-Pink Slime Campaign letter\[1\]\[1\]\[1\].docx](#)

---

After a little investigation, here is what appears to have happened. I made identical edits to the outgoing drafts (7144229), each of which contained a spacing issue in the original (example attached with tracked changes). However, if my tracked changes were simply accepted, the edits would yield a clean copy reading "cellsof." Rene then reviewed and checked in one clean copy, which was accurate and contained no spacing issues (also attached). However, it looks like we printed out at least some of the draft responses contained in the folder with my tracked changes accepted, not Rene's clean version. I unfortunately didn't see or clear the hard copies before they were sent.

I'm not sure if this blow-by-blow is necessary, but I hope it at least explains a bit why this appears to have happened.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst Supervisor (Acting)  
Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
USDA-Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1162-S  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)  
(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime folder (signed letters and emailed uploaded. Folder closed-7183242  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:08:54 AM

---

Thank you,

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250

Phone (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:49 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime folder (signed letters and emailed uploaded. Folder closed-7183242

(b) (6)

**FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS**

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(Desk) (b) (6)

**(Fax) 202-720-7609**

**FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS**

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

*TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION.*

*BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE*

*DR. MARTIN L. KING*

**From:** [Carl Custer](#)  
**To:** [Moshe](#)  
**Cc:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Pink Slime Hit  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 6:00:52 PM

---

FWIW, here's a list of who does & who doesn't:

< <http://www.thedaily.com/page/2012/03/19/031912-news-pink-slime-grocers-1-4/> >

GZ was on Dr. Oz today. Dunno when it'll air but he complained (Oh my!) they gave the BPI rep too much time.

On Wed, Mar 21, 2012 at 5:45 PM, Moshe <mjdreyfuss@verizon.net> wrote:

>  
> Safeway to stop buying 'pink slime' beef filler  
>  
> By Ian Simpson  
> updated 2 hours 5 minutes ago2012-03-21T19:35:33  
>  
> WASHINGTON — Safeway Inc, the No. 2 supermarket operator, will stop buying  
> the ammonia-treated beef filler critics call "pink slime" because of  
> widespread customer concern, the company said on Wednesday.  
>  
> The halt is a fresh blow to use of the ground beef filler, also known as  
> lean finely textured beef, which has drawn criticism from food activists.  
>  
> Although the Department of Agriculture and industry experts said the  
> filler is safe, "recent news stories have caused considerable consumer  
> concern about this product," Safeway said in a statement.  
>  
> "Safeway will no longer purchase ground beef containing lean finely  
> textured beef."  
>  
> The filler triggered a public outcry this month when the Internet news  
> source The Daily reported that 7 million pounds of the product would appear  
> in school lunches this spring.  
>  
> After a furor over the report, the USDA said last week it was allowing  
> school districts to opt out of using the beef filler starting next school  
> year.  
>  
> Fast-food chain McDonald's Corp stopped putting the USDA-approved  
> ammonia-treated meat into its hamburgers in August after activists including  
> celebrity chef Jamie Oliver drew attention to the additive.  
>  
> Copyright 2012 Thomson Reuters. Click for restrictions.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Information  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:02:16 AM

---

If you read the other sights at the bottom of the page, that's exactly what it is. They've been using it since 1974, it's in everything almost.....at least anything that good. Like, beer, baked goods, chocolates, etc. I think the separation of the muscle and fat cause it to appear slimy when mixed with the gas.

Anyway, thought it was good to know so I can tell people what it really is when they ask....

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:50 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Information

Thanks (b) (6) I wonder where the "pink slime" portion of this title comes from? Maybe that's what it looks like going in? It sounded to me like a gas.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Information

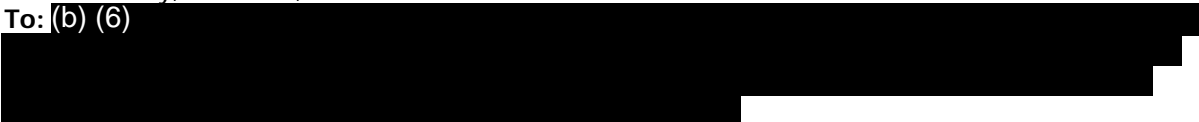
Thought you guys would like to listen to this. I've been getting a lot of questions this week since it hit the media.....

---

**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@agri.ohio.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Information

Here's a pretty good video...

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:55 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Information

We have had a few calls concerning the new media hype about pink slim in hamburgers. I don't know much about it, but got this information from Lynn Knipe. I thought for those of you that have had friends, plants and others wondering about it refer them to this link.

---

**From:** Lynn Knipe [mailto:(b) (6)@osu.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:57 PM



**To:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** Pink Slime Information

Here is a video that AMI did about using pink slime in hamburgers:

[www.meatmythcrushers.com/myths/myth-ordinary-household-ammonia-is-used-to-make-some-hamburgers.html](http://www.meatmythcrushers.com/myths/myth-ordinary-household-ammonia-is-used-to-make-some-hamburgers.html)

I thought I had a couple of websites also, but still looking for them.

Lynn Knipe

This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Information  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:25:33 PM

---

Yeah...I haven't watched this video yet, but will. Jamie Oliver is big into healthy eating for kids...which is good, but not if it unduly scares everyone else in the process!

---

**From:** (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 1:53 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Information

OMG...what a DICK. No wonder everyone has been in an uproar.....this is the first I have heard about this...

---

**From:** (b) (6) @agri.ohio.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Information

More on pink slime!

---

**From:** (b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Information

Here is the "pink slime" video link that Jamie Oliver posted that started all this from his TV show last year.

<http://youtu.be/wshlnRWnf30>

It is the centrifuging of beef trim that removes fat and the rest is treated with ammonium hydroxide and then the result ground and it looks like regular hamburger. It is allowed to be added to ground beef at the rate of 15% without any labeling of the substance in the ground beef. The major restaurant chains that were using it stopped due to public outcry and apparently the government bought it up to put into the school lunch program creating the next public outcry. Like 7 million pounds of it! We should all be educated about it because the American public is very concerned and ask me about it all the time I don't know why they would not be asking all of us on a daily basis. The health or whole food people are concerned with making their bodies in a more basic (ph) form. This does reduce the acidity of the beef and that is why it is a good killer of pathogenic microbes.

Dr. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) @agri.ohio.gov]

**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:55 PM

**To:** (b) (6)

- FSIS

**Cc:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: Pink Slime Information

We have had a few calls concerning the new media hype about pink slime in hamburgers. I don't know much about it, but got this information from Lynn Knipe. I thought for those of you that have had friends, plants and others wondering about it refer them to this link.

---

**From:** Lynn Knipe [mailto:(b) (6)@osu.edu]

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:57 PM

**To:** (b) (6)

**Subject:** Pink Slime Information

Here is a video that AMI did about using pink slime in hamburgers:

[www.meatmythcrushers.com/myths/myth-ordinary-household-ammonia-is-used-to-make-some-hamburgers.html](http://www.meatmythcrushers.com/myths/myth-ordinary-household-ammonia-is-used-to-make-some-hamburgers.html)

I thought I had a couple of websites also, but still looking for them.

Lynn Knipe

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This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime issue  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:55:22 PM

---

Sorry... <http://www.meatami.com/ht/a/GetDocumentAction/i/68411>

(b) (6), Ph.D.

Livestock and Meat Marketing Specialist

USDA / AMS / LS / Standardization Division

Phone: (b) (6)

[www.greening.usda.gov](http://www.greening.usda.gov)

 Do you really need to print this e-mail?

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:55 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime issue

Nothing attached. Thanks. (b) (6) will be good, no need to spend more time on this.

Thanks,

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office: 202-690-6600

Fax: 202-690-6364

E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:53 PM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime issue

No, it is a process for extracting lean tissue. But the process includes process that reduce microbial loads. It is an extremely clean product.

Here is an AMI fact sheet on the issue. I will dig up more information for you when I have a chance. It is a BIG topic in the media right now.

(b) (6), Ph.D.

Livestock and Meat Marketing Specialist

USDA / AMS / LS / Standardization Division

Phone: (b) (6)

[www.greening.usda.gov](http://www.greening.usda.gov)

 Do you really need to print this e-mail?

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:49 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime issue

Is this just an intervention?

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office: 202-690-6600

Fax: 202-690-6364

E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:48 PM  
**To:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime issue

Yes, it is beyond the scope of the current NACMCF charge. We do allow LFTB in certain percentages in NSLP finished product. But because of the pink slime issue (as deemed by the Jamie Oliver), we have received press inquiries and requests not to allow it in product. I will see if I can find a write up on the issue and get it to you.

(b) (6), Ph.D.

Livestock and Meat Marketing Specialist

USDA / AMS / LS / Standardization Division

Phone: (b) (6)

[www.greening.usda.gov](http://www.greening.usda.gov)

 Do you really need to print this e-mail?

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:44 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**Subject:** pink slime issue

Hi (b) (6)

My press office is asking me about pink slime and NACMCF and school lunch. Do you have anything on this that explains the situation. Not necessarily for me to pass on to the press office, but for me to get a better understanding on this. I am seeing boneless lean beef trim treated with a ammonium hydroxide product is being purchased for school lunch? This I guess is beyond the scope of the questions that NACMCF is answering right now.

Thanks,

**Gerri M. Ransom**

Director, Executive Secretariat  
USDA-FSIS, Office of Public Health Science

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

Stop 3777, PP3, 9-210B

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office: 202-690-6600

Fax: 202-690-6364

E-mail: [gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:gerri.ransom@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Dessai, Uday - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: pink slime issue  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2012 2:14:27 PM

---

*This is good, however, there should be a bullet on possible toxicity/residual effect of such a treatment etc.*

*Patty's group or policy can make some additions here!*

*However, OPACE can should be able to handle this – right!/?*

---

**From:** Ransom, Gerri - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 2:00 PM  
**To:** Dessai, Uday - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: pink slime issue

(b) (6) has provided this

<http://www.meatami.com/ht/a/GetDocumentAction/i/68411>

**From:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime letters  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:58:56 PM

---

You can drop my signature in the letters. Thanks.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
Voicemail -- (202) 720-0089  
BlackBerry -- (b) (6) -- emergency only  
Fax -- (202) 720-2025  
Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 1:58 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime letters

<< File: 20120319104432675.pdf >>

Dan, we have about 30 Pink Slime letters to go out in ECIMS. Do you want to sign them or can I just drop your signature in them. Thanks

(b) (6)

***FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS***

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

***(Desk)*** (b) (6)

***(Fax) 202-720-7609***

***FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS***

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

*TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION.*

*BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE*

*DR. MARTIN L. KING*



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime letters  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 3:40:31 PM

---

Thanks

(b) (6)

Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Ave SW. Room 1166  
Washington D.C. 20250

Phone (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 2:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime letters

(b) (6) I am waiting to hear back from Dan on the signature. Will let you know when I hear from him.

(b) (6)

**FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS**

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**(Desk)** (b) (6)

**(Fax) 202-720-7609**

**FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS**

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION,  
BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE  
DR. MARTIN L. KING

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime letters  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:24:00 AM

---

I noticed on the tagline that there was a line hanging down off the graphic. If you use the tagline in [Q:\letters\oa\\_ems\Current\Standard Language\Tagline and end of letter boxes\For hard copy letters – Check Your Steps](Q:\letters\oa_ems\Current\Standard Language\Tagline and end of letter boxes\For hard copy letters – Check Your Steps), hit select all, copy and paste, you won't have that problem. I think you might be using an older version.

Thanks.

(b) (6)  
Issues Analyst  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
Executive Correspondence & Issues Management Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW. • Room 1166 • Washington D.C. 20250  
(b) (6) (W) • (202) 720-7609 (F) • (b) (6) (C)  
e-mail: (b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN** - **SEPARATE** - **COOK** - **CHILL**

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime letters  
**Importance:** High

<< File: Nancy Zazzaro-Pink Slime.docx >>

Good Morning All,

For those of you working on "Pink Slime" letters, cleared language in a letter I prepared is going up for signature. Once the letter is signed, I will forward you a copy. However, I am quite sure that eventually, the language will be changed.

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) *fsis.usda.gov*

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

**Check your Steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basis/index.html>**

From: [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#)  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS; [Leach, Alicemary - FSIS](#)  
Subject: RE: Pink Slime letters  
Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:08:46 PM

---

Thanks (b) (6)

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

---

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:02 PM  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS; Cardwell, Rene - FSIS  
Subject: FW: Pink Slime letters

Hello all, confirmation from Dan to drop his signature in the pink slime letters.

(b) (6)

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

(Desk) (b) (6)

(Fax) 202-720-7609

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

*TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION.*

*BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE*

*DR. MARTIN L. KING*

---

**From:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime letters

You can drop my signature in the letters. Thanks.

**Daniel L. Engeljohn, PhD**

Assistant Administrator

Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA  
Rm 349-E JWB, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, WDC 20250  
Main Office -- (202) 205-0495  
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Policies -- [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 1:58 PM  
**To:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS  
**Subject:** Pink Slime letters

<< File: 20120319104432675.pdf >>

Dan, we have about 30 Pink Slime letters to go out in ECIMS. Do you want to sign them or can I just drop your signature in them. Thanks

(b) (6)

**FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS**

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**(Desk)** (b) (6)

**(Fax) 202-720-7609**

**FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS**

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION,  
BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE  
DR. MARTIN L. KING

**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** ["Knowles, David"](#)  
**Cc:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime petition  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 4:58:09 PM

---

I am fact checking the statement below now.

-----Original Message-----

From: Knowles, David [<mailto:David.Knowles@thedaily.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 4:49 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
Subject: RE: Pink Slime petition

The two FSIS employees went on at length about safety concerns as well, though I didn't include those as I didn't think I could portray that in a fair way given that I didn't have the latter studies produced by FSIS. As two people familiar with pink slime, we felt their opinions on the product were valid.

I appreciate you helping with this story. Would it be alright to clarify the record in the following manner?

The USDA doesn't directly order from BPI, rather, it receives notification as to how much LFBT is contained in a given supplier's shipment of ground beef that is to be used in the national school lunch program. USDA restrictions prevent a supplier from mixing in more than 15 percent of the product into ground beef, and this year the agency estimates it will buy more than 7 million pounds of the ammonia treated beef.

-david

---

From: Lavallee, Aaron - OC [[Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov)]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 1:47 PM  
To: Knowles, David  
Cc: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Pink Slime petition

Well then if it is not a food safety angle how could you quote two former FSIS employees whose expertise and credibility is derived from the fact that they worked in food safety.

We need a fair shake on these stories. I am pulling something together for you but please keep the off the record, off the record and use what we provide on the on the record in full.

-----Original Message-----

From: Knowles, David [<mailto:David.Knowles@thedaily.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 4:23 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
Subject: RE: Pink Slime petition

To be clear, I steered our articles away from discussions of safety after talking to you and Dirk. We're just focusing on the quality issue.

---

From: Lavallee, Aaron - OC [[Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov)]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 1:21 PM  
To: Knowles, David  
Subject: RE: Pink Slime petition

Also you should consider adding a voice beyond ours to this discussion - you will recognize some of these names as respected within this community.

Dr. (b) (6) (formally of Jack in the Box - (b) (6)  
Dr. (b) (6) (Iowa State University) - (b) (6)  
(b) (6) (STOP Foodborn Illness) - (b) (6)  
(b) (6) (formally of National Consumer League) - (b) (6)  
Dr. (b) (6) (Kansas State University) - (b) (6)  
Dr. (b) (6) (Texas A&M University) - (b) (6)  
(b) (6) (National Meat Association) - (b) (6)  
(b) (6) (Food Safety Lawyer) - (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Knowles, David [<mailto:David.Knowles@thedaily.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 4:10 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
Subject: RE: Pink Slime petition

Aaron,

Sorry, here's the link:

<http://www.thelunchtray.com/lets-put-a-stop-to-pink-slime-on-school-lunch-trays/>

Let's talk on the phone, if you have a moment.

-David

---

From: Lavallee, Aaron - OC [[Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov)]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 1:05 PM  
To: Knowles, David  
Cc: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Subject: RE: Pink Slime petition

David -

Off the record,

I don't see an attachment but if this is a formal petition to FSIS there are appropriate channels for it to go through.

We are at a point where we are getting a little frustrated.

We have stated repeatedly that we don't have an order with BPI - that is not how it works. Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) - the BPI product you reference - is a raw material that USDA includes as an allowable raw material in several beef items it procures. It is included in these products by the vendors that produce it. We then make purchases through vendors.

What your story failed to point out is that the local schools all over the nation are the ones buying the vast majority of this product - if they don't want to, they don't have to, like USDA they buy from vendors who may or may not use this product. What your story also failed to point out is that this is commercially available all over the US and common in ground beef people consume everyday.

-----Original Message-----

From: Knowles, David [<mailto:David.Knowles@thedaily.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 3:52 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron - OC

Subject: Pink Slime petition

Dear Aaron,

The Daily is running a story about a woman who started a petition this morning to try and get the USDA to stop from buying LBT from Beef Products, Inc. I am attaching her web article which contains a letter to Secretary Vilsak as well as the petition.

I have a couple of questions for the story (which will run tomorrow):

1. Was anyone at the USDA, or Secretary Vilsak, aware of the petition before receiving it from me today?
2. Have there been other complaints about BPI's LBT in recent days?
3. Would it even be possible to cancel USDA's order from BPI for this year?

Thanks, as always for your help.

Best regards,  
David Knowles  
Reporter, The Daily  
510-647-9584

---

From: Lavallee, Aaron [Aaron.Lavallee@oc.usda.gov]  
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 10:10 AM  
To: Knowles, David  
Cc: Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
Subject: RE: BPI questions

David,  
My apologies for the delay - I was out sick yesterday. I want to make clear that our emails off the record for now.

I am going to need some time to look in to this and will loop in my colleague Dirk on this email.

I am not familiar with either of these gentlemen but I have some concerns with their statements below and your plan to use them.

I need to make very clear what FSIS does. FSIS is responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, correctly labeled and packaged. So if the validity of these individuals is based on the fact that they were FSIS employees then we have concerns because FSIS does not "consider something to be ground beef" and does not determine "inferior quality." FSIS is in the business of inspecting, not grading. So what these gentlemen are saying would appear to be personal opinions, not professional assessments or statements.

Also I would double check some of the dates as I believe JoAnn Smith may have been at USDA well before that.

We are going to do some checking on this and get back with you shortly. What is your timeline and the best number to reach you at?

Aaron Lavallee  
Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.720.6959  
Cell: (b) (6)  
aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov  
<http://www.usda.gov>

Stay Connected with USDA:

-----Original Message-----

From: Knowles, David [<mailto:David.Knowles@thedaily.com>]

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 3:40 PM

To: Lavallee, Aaron

Subject: BPI questions

Dear Aaron,

I've been asked to do another story on the BPI's product that will look into the red flags raised by two former FSIS employees, Carl Custer and Gerald Zirnstein. I've interviewed both gentlemen and wanted to give USDA a chance to respond to some of the statements that each has made that will be used in the piece.

Mr. Zirnstein says he visited BPI's factory in 2002 and that he raised concerns about their LBT product. In a March 2002 e-mail, Zirnstein termed the product "pink slime" and said he did not consider it to be ground beef (as per the USDA's definition). Does this jibe with USDA's recollection?

Mr. Custer, along with others in the department, received that e-mail, which confirmed his conclusions about BPI's product. Custer said he first encountered BPI back in the late 90's, and also concluded that the LBT was of an "inferior quality" to ground beef. It is his recollection that in 2002, then undersecretary JoAnn Smith declared of BPI's product, "If it's pink, then it's meat," and that FSIS dropped its objections to the LBT product thereafter. Can you corroborate or deny any of that?

Since the Dec. 30 2009 New York Times article detailing cases of E-Coli in BPI meat, what measures has USDA taken to insure that their LBT product is inspected on a regular basis? Are there any other steps USDA and FSIS have taken to allay the concerns raised by Mr. Zirnstein and Mr. Custer?

Thank you, once again, for your help with this. It's important to me to have the facts of this story reported properly.

Best,  
David Knowles  
Reporter, The Daily  
510-647-9584

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**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** ["Knowles, David"](#)  
**Cc:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime petition  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 5:10:04 PM

---

ON BACKGROUND:

Our role is as the purchasing agent. To quantify how much of a particular product purchased by USDA is served in specific school districts or specific schools is difficult to measure and depends upon a case by case or even school-by-school basis. Procurement officials for schools may have this information.

Your paragraph would be accurate if it read like this:

USDA doesn't purchase LFTB or any products directly from BPI. Instead, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) does purchase ground beef and other beef items from pre-approved vendors. Although BPI is a pre-approved raw material supplier to these vendors, they are not a vendor in the program. In the case of ground beef purchased by AMS, all product is produced under the continual supervision of a USDA Grading and Verification Agent (an employee of AMS). One factor this AMS employee is monitoring during production is that the inclusion rate of LFTB does not exceed specified limits. Although AMS utilized production records to determine the level at which LFTB was used during the past purchase year (6.5 percent of the average volume of ground beef purchased), AMS does not actively track the use or non-use of LFTB nor has the Agency forecasted what the inclusion rate will be this coming year within specified limits.

On the record:

"USDA makes its purchases for the school meal program in a manner that reflects best industry practices and that meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA does not directly purchase Lean Finely Textured Beef, instead we purchase beef goods from external vendors that are permitted to include it in their product formulations."

-----Original Message-----

From: Knowles, David [<mailto:David.Knowles@thedaily.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 4:23 PM  
To: Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
Subject: RE: Pink Slime petition

To be clear, I steered our articles away from discussions of safety after talking to you and Dirk. We're just focusing on the quality issue.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:12:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [FSIS Directive 7120.1 Revision 7 Safe and Suitable Ingredients Used in the Production of Meat Poultry and Egg Products.doc](#)

---

Ok...Thanks for sharing even though "pink slime" doesn't bother me. We've been eating it for years and no one has said anything about it so why all the fuss now?? Ammonium hydroxide has been accepted for years as an anti microbial.

Why don't people pass around the above FSIS Directive 7120.1 instead of more stories of "ewww....no pink slime here"?? At least it would be the truth.

(b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:43 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:55:16 PM

---

It does not have a good outlook does it. I don't do all that but since I am living on a farm now I will be growing my own I hope. Take care and stay away from the rivers if you are getting any of the rain we are. y

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:35 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

Good Morning Y, or good afternoon when you start.

That is why I grind my own. I know what I am getting. When they eliminate us all and turn it over to the DO's and Eiao's I will be eating my own beef, pork, and chicken.

I would say we will see less than daily inspection in 5-10 years or sooner. Once they gut the poultry lines they will start on processing jobs so pink slime will be the least of consumers worries. Have good evening. (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:52 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

Hate to say it but the pink slime burger looks better to me. yuck

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:33 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

(b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:04 PM  
**Subject:** Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

[<< OLE Object: Picture \(Device Independent Bitmap\) >>](#)

[« Penthouse Pet accused of heading drug ring | Main | Peyton Manning picks the Broncos »](#)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:15:48 AM

---

I've been following it the last couple of weeks.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:48 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

FYI----In case you were curious about this "pink slime" that's been in the news lately

**Subject:** Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

[<< OLE Object: Picture \(Device Independent Bitmap\) >>](#)

## Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list

[<< OLE Object: Picture \(Device Independent Bitmap\) >>](#)

Which is which? The hamburger made from ground beef containing what is derisively referred to as "pink slime," or what the meat industry calls "lean, finely textured beef," is on the right. The other one is pure 85% lean ground beef. (AP Photo/Jim Cole)

[<< OLE Object: Picture \(Device Independent Bitmap\) >>](#)

In this undated image released by Beef Products Inc., boneless lean beef trimmings are shown before packaging (aka "pink slime"). (AP Photo/Beef Products Inc.)

You've heard about the "pink slime," right? It's that meat filler made from slaughterhouse scraps that is treated with ammonia. (Yum!) Last week the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced plans to buy 7 million pounds of it. A federal microbiologist nicknamed the filler "pink slime."

[The Daily](#), the iPad newspaper from News Corp., has figured out which stores sell ground meat that contains pink slime.

According to [The Daily](#), these are among the stores that say they **do not sell meat with pink slime**:

- A&P
- Whole Foods
- Costco

- Publix
- H-E-B
- Waldbaum's
- Price Chopper

These are among the stores that **do not sell pink slime in store-ground meat, but sell pre-packaged ground beef from suppliers that may contain pink slime:**

- Jewel-Osco
- Kroger
- Food Lion
- Winco
- Fred Meyer

These are among the stores that **sell store-ground meat with pink slime**, according to [The Daily:](#)

- Target
- BJ's
- Hy-Vee
- Safeway
- Walmart
- Albertsons
- Stop & Shop
- Zaycon Foods

School districts nationwide will be able to opt out of serving "pink slime," after [the USDA announced](#) March 15 that beginning next fall, schools involved in the national school lunch program will have the option of avoiding the product.

Posted By: [Laura Weisman](#) ( [Email](#) ) | Mar 19 at 8:54 am

Listed Under: [Food](#), [The Daily](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments & Replies \(0\)](#)[Comments & Replies \(1\)](#)[Comments & Replies \(246\)](#) : [Post Comment](#)[Post Comment](#)[Post Comment](#)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 4:33:13 PM

---

Unfortunately they do.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 2:14 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

Do they agree with the article? THAT would be the scary part!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:35 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

In answer to your previous question. I get these articles from other CSI's. Kind of scary 😊

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:30 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

Maybe my responses should be submitted to Food Safety News!?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:19 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

Sorry

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:18 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

I know it's Food Safety News...I can read. :p Thanks!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

Food Safety News. Thought it might strike a nerve 😊 Congrats on the promo

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:02 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

Where do you get this garbage?? My responses are below for your reading enjoyment! ☺

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

Thought you might need some reading material ☺

## Opinion & Contributed Articles

# Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?

## USDA allows slaughter plants to sell contaminated meat

by [John Munsell](#) | Mar 23, 2012

### Opinion

A central focus in the controversy over the use of ammoniated hydroxide to sanitize beef trimmings are the claims that the source meat may be highly pathogenic, otherwise destined for dog food or laced with dangerous bacteria.

So why would the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) publicly state that beef trimmings are "high risk," which would seem an embarrassing admission?

**These trimmings are “high risk” because of the cutting and handling process which, without interventions and strict adherence to sanitation procedures, can reintroduce dangerous bacteria to the meat.**

The fact that USDA knowingly allows "high risk" meat to be shipped into commerce in containers marked "USDA Inspected & Passed" is surprising. But true. And it is the driving force energizing industry innovators to devise new antimicrobial interventions to protect consumers from foodborne disease.

**See previous answer!**



We need to dissect this driving force to understand, as Paul Harvey used to say, "The Rest of the Story."

USDA declared E.coli O157:H7 to be an adulterant in 1995, forbidding its shipment into commerce. The agency proclaimed "zero tolerance" for this type of E.coli. The agency also required all meat and poultry plants to implement a new system of production and inspection entitled Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP). In a phased-in implementation, the largest plants implemented HACCP by Jan. 26, 1998.

Under contract with NASA and the U.S. Army, Pillsbury developed HACCP for plants making products that would be exposed to what's called a "kill step" (such as cooking) to eliminate harmful bacteria, and thus create consistently safe, ready-to-eat consumer items.

USDA, however, mandated HACCP at all meat plants, even those producing raw meat and poultry. These plants produce food not exposed to a kill step.

HACCP principles apply to ALL steps in a process. I assume the "kill step" is referred to as a cooking step?

USDA-style HACCP thus suffered from a fatal flaw from day one, because in the absence of a kill step, raw food plants are incapable of producing food with a zero tolerance for E.coli. In spite of this obvious discrepancy, USDA tenaciously adhered to its impossible zero tolerance demand on raw meat and poultry. The agency hoped against hope that the mere declaration of E. coli O157:H7 to be an adulterant would somehow regulate the pathogen into extinction.

The zero tolerance starts at the slaughterhouse and the goal of zero tolerance is not impossible.

E. coli and Salmonella are classified as "enteric" bacteria, meaning by strict definition that they emanate from within animal intestines and, by extension, proliferate in manure, which is found extensively on live animal hides. Intestines and hides are found in slaughter plants, but not in retail meat markets, restaurants or hospital cafeterias.

E. coli and Salmonella can be transferred via cross-contamination!

In all likelihood, such downstream entities innocently purchase previously contaminated meat from their suppliers. These destinations operate under the false assumption that incoming meat, bearing the USDA Mark of Inspection, is safe. Yet even USDA has issued written documents revealing that the agency does NOT equate the mark with product

safety.

Yes that's why the FSIS has become more strict and IPP are instructed to not just accept the inspection legend as final documentation of product safety. There are Letters of Guarantee, intervention steps, and Certificates of Analysis to name a few that are also required to prove product safety!

Although USDA has declared E. coli O157:H7 to be an adulterant, the agency conveniently states that the E. coli is an adulterant only in ground beef and in boneless trimmings destined for ground beef. However, USDA allows intact cuts of beef surface-contaminated with E. coli to be shipped into commerce.

Intact beef has always had E.coli present. E.coli is present on the outer surfaces of meat and once it is seared/cooked the E.coli is effectively killed as long as you don't reintroduce the pathogen by not washing your hands after you go #2!

Retail meat markets, and to a lesser degree restaurants, purchase intact cuts as "boxed beef." Boxed beef includes intact cuts such as chucks, rounds, sirloin, etc., which are then further processed at those downstream location into steaks, roasts and ground beef.

These fall under the knowledge that they will be fully cooked by the consumer. Bacon is the same way. It doesn't have to be treated for Trichinae because it is customarily thoroughly cooked by the consumer. They're also safe handling instructions and cooking instructions on the retail packages.

These intact cuts, which may be surface-contaminated with E. coli, can legally be shipped into commerce, under the guise that the bacteria are not adulterants but merely contaminants when existing on intact cuts.

Meat is considered adulterated with E. coli if it was found positive for E.coli. There are FSIS regulations/Directives/Notices that are specific to this issue and MUST be verified BEFORE shipping into commerce!

However, where they are further processed at downstream entities, these contaminants somehow morph into lethal pathogens and, if detected in finished products, become the responsibility of the entity that did the processing.

Uh...YEAH!! If you handled the product AFTER it was shipped to you then YOU are responsible for everything. If you didn't receive a COA, Letter of Guarantee, or perform testing on the product before it was processed then there is no way to determine WHERE or WHO introduced that pathogen.

Processing the intact cuts produces massive amounts of boneless trimmings, which are destined for ground beef. Thus, it is easy to understand why USDA classifies the boneless

trimmings as "high risk," because the agency knowingly permits slaughter plants to ship intact cuts into commerce that may be surface-contaminated by invisible E.coli bacteria "contaminants," not yet considered adulterants.

**DUH! You cannot see E. coli with the naked eye. See previous responses.**

Complicating this scenario is USDA's historical unwillingness to conduct tracebacks to the source of contamination, which in the case of E. coli and Salmonella, is invariably the slaughter plant.

**It is required to obtain supplier info when collecting a sample for raw meat specifically for these trace back purposes.**

From Jan. 1, 2009 to Nov. 30, 2010, USDA labs detected E. coli O157:H7 in 64 samples collected from USDA-inspected processing plants.

**And your point is?? There are a lot of plants that do not do all they can to make a safe product. That's why there are INSPECTORS!!**

In 29 of these 64 positives, the samples were obtained at plants that purchased all their meat from one source slaughter supplier. In all 29 cases, USDA refused to conduct a traceback to the one well-documented source, but instead assessed full liability against the victimized establishment further downstream that had processed the meat purchased from that supplier.

**HHmmm...this seems like there was ONE plant with 29 positives!**

Several years ago, a then-USDA microbiologist who suggested that in such cases the agency should conduct tracebacks to the source slaughter plant was told the agency "won't get involved in a witch hunt." Instead, the hunt for contaminated meat starts and finishes at the downstream destination.

**BULL\*\*\*\*.**

As such, Americans are virtually guaranteed ongoing disease outbreaks from contaminated meat, because USDA refuses to implement enforcement actions at the source of the contamination, preferring to use its regulatory authority at smaller downstream plants that are easier enforcement prey and lack the political clout and financial wherewithal enjoyed by the multinational slaughter behemoths.

**Again....?? I have an idea.....find out what farm raised the cattle and go give them baths before loading them onto very clean and sterile trucks. Don't forget to take them for a**

walk to go pee and poop!!

The top four slaughter plants in the US kill 88 percent of our feedlot-finished steers and heifers, and constitute a formidable potential legal adversary to an agency fearful of litigation or political pressure.

Since USDA allows slaughter plants to ship E. coli-laced intact cuts into commerce, the pathogen is somewhat ubiquitous (although still just a "contaminant," mind you).

This person is really angry. Maybe he's mad he can't sell the meat because an INSPECTOR did their job and they were prevented from harming the consumer and now is trying to make it look like he's the hero and not the bad guy!

This intentional USDA oversight has spawned the need for development of additional antimicrobial interventions, such as treatment with ammonia hydroxide. We should not pillory BPI or Eldon Roth for using this intervention, because it actually makes ground beef safer.

I have not seen either name mentioned on the FSIS website. This person is the one who put a company's name to the intervention. The company's name wasn't common knowledge and besides, it still is considered safe!!

Admittedly, whether the treated beef should be labeled as such is another issue entirely. Nevertheless, because USDA allows the bug free entry into commerce, American consumers benefit by entrepreneurs such as Eldon Roth for pioneering interventions that make our food safer.

People that are smart enough to develop products to make our food safer deserve recognition....referred to as marketing and selling. EVERY meat and poultry product is "treated" from the poultry chiller water to the carcass spray cabinet to final processing facility.

Consumers who prefer that their meat not be subjected to chemicals such as lactic acid and ammonia hydroxide should not place the blame or target companies that are making "high risk" (to use USDA's terminology) meat safer.

If they don't want chemicals then they should either be a vegetarian or raise their own cattle.

They should instead put USDA at the top of their radar, because the agency intentionally allows potentially risky meat to be labeled with the valueless USDA Mark of Inspection and

shipped into commerce.

And if we don't allow the mark of inspection you'd still cry.....whiny b\*\*\*\*.

USDA has utilized vexatious ingenuity in concocting an allegedly "science based" deregulated system of limited inspection at the monolithic source slaughter plants to subtly forward all pathogen liability downstream to supposedly noncompliant processors and on to consumers, who are considered negligent if they don't cook contaminated meat thoroughly.

Umm...no they don't. Every step from the point of entry to the slaughterhouse to final shipping to consumer MUST be accounted for. You need a HACCP refresher course....

The Eldon Roths of this world are saving lives, while USDA's policies imperil public health. These agency policies were fabricated in the 1990s, and continue to cause heartburn for the agency's current leaders who have been burdened with indefensible practices.

Who's in your back pocket??

Industry leaders who improve the safety of our food are the unsung heroes here, while USDA is the true villain, and needs to be brought to accountability.

Oh yeah....let's go back to the way meat slaughter and processing was done DECADES ago!

Food Safety News previously published my in-depth analysis of this USDA scandal. That commentary, can be accessed [here](#) and provided historical facts that better delineate how USDA has pulled its pseudo-scientific wool over our eyes.

In my opinion, FOOD SAFETY NEWS is nothing more than The Enquirer or some other rag magazine you find at the grocery store checkout stand!!

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Tags:

- [BPI,](#)
- [E. coli O157:H7,](#)
- [ground beef,](#)

- [pink slime,](#)
- [source slaughter plant,](#)
- [traceback,](#)
- [USDA](#)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:33:33 PM

---

It does not seem you have to be an authority or someone with common sense to submit so you better not. Your way above those morons who seem to think they have the knowledge on these subjects without really checking out or backing up what they say.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:30 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

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---

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**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:18 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:05 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

Food Safety News. Thought it might strike a nerve 😊 Congrats on the promo

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:02 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

Where do you get this garbage?? My responses are below for your reading enjoyment! 😊

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 10:58:09 AM

---

Yes you are (b) (6) and some of the stuff I've been forwarding to you about Pink Slime and the other stuff on Sanitized Beef Trimmings will help with the packet you want to give him. Maybe get hold of (b) (6) and see what he's still got hanging around from the DC trips. I can't find a lot of stuff still and have tossed a bunch of stuff too, soooooo I don't really have anything on hand except what I've forwarded to you. I'm sorry they aren't interested in a we in MN that includes you. You're a valuable member and they are wasting a valuable resource in you, but WE WILL GLADLY TAKE YOU BACK!!!! ☺ Have a Wonderful Day and tell the girls Hi for me and that I send my love. Let me know if you can't find the forms. Love Ya (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 24, 2012 12:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

(b) (6) I'll look for the change form at home. Instead of an apology it was I do this and I do that. My door prize comment was a cheap shot and unbecoming of me to say that. My help and input is unnecessary since everyone has already commented. Believe me I won't be missed. I'll look for transfer forms at home. If I can't find, I'll let you know to send. Also said was plenty of we's in local 488. I asked on how I could become part of the we's? I know I have a great job here with no complaints. The only complaint I have is what this agency is doing to our line Inspectors. When (b) (6) told me he couldn't make it because of things he had to do I only thought of the things I could have been doing. Congressman Colin Peterson (AG Committee) is in Detroit Lakes. If we could from local 925 put a package to give may make a difference. I need a copy or two of sanitized poultry condemn sheets. Well I'm close to done. Thanks for all. I feel that I'm getting my family back. Gary

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 10:24 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6)

(b) (6) FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

OMG!!!! Someone that finally knows what is really going on in the plants and the real world!!!! This is a refreshing article and tells the truth about HACCP!!!! Those of us in the field have been saying there's a problem with HACCP since the beginning and that they were going to kill people not making E coli an adulterant on whole muscle product. This is something else and should be a MUST READ for ALL CONSUMERS!!!! The timing is very good since the Pink Slime has been in the news so much!!!! Please pass this along to others. Have a Wonderful Day and Great Weekend!!! ☺ (b) (6)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:17:09 AM

---

Thank You (b) (6) for sending this out. For once an article written by someone that knows the real deal and how the system really works. This was refreshing for a change and it's everything inspectors all over the country have been saying for years!!!! Thanks again and I will be forwarding this to others. Have a Wonderful Day!!!! ☺ (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) [FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) [- FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 7:29:56 PM

---

That is what I am hearing, I don't have anything definite yet. The #2 guy here at Tyson pulled me in the office Wednesday and told me he had just got the news to make product adjustments because BPI was going to be no longer. Customers were dropping them like a hot rock.

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 6:04 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

Tell me NO☹! you got to be kidding?

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 5:09 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Why Do Beef Trimmings Need to be Sanitized?----From Food Safety News

So have you heard the news out here. BPI is shutting down. That Pink Slime campaign has put them out of business.

From: (b) (6)  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Re: Windy  
Date: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 8:37:56 PM

---

Really cooled off here today and was very windy. Was only 60 degrees but felt colder with the wind. Glad to hear you got all your trash to the curb. Does your area have a special truck for yard waste that is to be picked up??? Papillion used to have I know. I always just ground it up or hauled it to the dump. They had a special can for yard waste and I never wanted to pay for it. Papillion goes to the state tourney tomorrow first time since 1997. The new coach brought in a couple of ringers I guess, same with the football team this year. Went to lunch today and had good barbecue brisket sandwich, On the news tonight they were talking about pink slime being put in hamburger, Showed how it was made and what it is made from. Do they do that at your hamburger plants also??? May have to quit eating hamburger also.

Love,  
(b) (6)

On 3/7/2012 4:45 PM, (b) (6) - FSIS wrote:

Another terrible windy day her in OZ Land☺! Wind just changed to the north was straight out of the south. We just had a tornado drill here at this plant. Talk about mass confusion when you try to get Asian's, Mexican's and Blacks and us poor white folk in a confined space. What a cluster. There is going to be a shit wad load of basketball on TV in the next few days. Hopefully this WSU team gets a good spot bid to play. KU is looking to be a #1 seed. Got all my yard trash down to the curb this morning. Have a good evening love  
(b) (6)

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**From:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Words from Secretary to AI  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:48:27 AM

---

Good morning OPACE team!

I have great news to share with you. Each week, the Administrator meets with the Secretary to make him aware of important and emergent food safety issues. The Secretary also uses those meetings to discuss issues and priorities for the Department or White House. During their last meeting, the Secretary made a point of complementing us on our messages and responses to media and stakeholders. He added that there are many agencies that keep him up at night, but he is able to rest well when the issues are food safety related. He understands the difficulty of our work, but he also knows that we will do our very best to communicate tough issues; a perfect recent example of this is the so-called "pink slime" controversy. There is hardly a person within OPACE who hasn't been affected by this issue -- whether it's correspondence, hotline calls, media or congressional responses or outreach to consumers or industry representatives seeking information. We have a terrific team and just as we share in problem-solving, we should also share when we get positive feedback on our efforts. Thank you again for all your hard work!

-----Original Message-----

From: Blake, Carol - FSIS  
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:20 AM  
To: DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS  
Cc: FSIS - OPACE/Managers  
Subject: Words from Secretary to AI

Greg - you're right. I'll compose and send out a note to all opace employees this week. I appreciate the suggestion and didn't mean to discount it during our meeting this morning.

Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884  
Cell: (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) (FMI)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: your inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:13:40 PM

---

Linda,  
Thank you for getting back with me.

(b) (6)

---

**From:** West, Walinda - FSIS [mailto:Walinda.West@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:59 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (FMI)  
**Subject:** your inquiry

Good afternoon, Mr. (b) (6)

You put in a call to FSIS about the current controversy being referred to in the media as "pink slime." As you might imagine, we have received numerous call from media and consumers. We have been making the following statement. Please let us know if you need anything else from us.

"All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe."

*Walinda P. "Linda" West*

Supervisor, Constituent Affairs  
Congressional and Public Affairs Office  
USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 1184  
Washington, DC 20250

Direct line: (202) 720-0284  
Main Ofc: (202) 720-9113  
Blackberry: (202) 360-1428  
Fax: (202) 720-5704

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Your presentation  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:48:01 PM

---

You screwed up very little – few minor mis-spoken words. Anyone would've on that complex material unless they delivered same subject presentations day in and day out.

It is breathtaking really to hear your presentation - the potential for serious illness from the actions of the workers. Mentally doing the calculations in my head, how much product could have been affected, how many people it could reach, at the home, opening the package, would they cook it enough or... Intentional contamination so grindingly routine the workers numb to it. If this presentation was on YouTube instead of BPI pink slime this week, we'd have a whole new class of food safety professionals rise up.

I saw on Meatingplace that USDA will announce alternatives to "pink slime" in NSLP school lunch beef today – power of the media (for good or bad).

You are doing a very good job for the consumers!

(b) (6), DVM  
Enforcement Investigation Analysis Officer  
Lawrence District Office  
Office (b) (6)  
Fax 785-841-5623  
Cell (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:34 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re: Your presentation

U know I totally screwed that up in a lot of places. Left out a lot of what I wanted to say. I'm not a good presenter by any stretch of the imagination. Give me a piece of paper or computer and I good to go though. Its always been difficult for me. I had to fight mangement there so many times and then when corporate lied on me and byran and jeff bought into it, the whole game plan changed with my mentality. They were kind enough to keep their mouths shut when me and jennifer were hashing the lies out at our meeting though. So I think they realized their mistake. I did my best work there and wouldn't trade the opportunity for anything. It what keeps me going. Thanks for listening and your feedback. It means a lot.

And yes, pink is my fav color!

-----

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

(b) (6), EIAO

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 02:10 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Your presentation

Hi (b) (6)

Just a note to thank you for the presentation. It was a very good explanation of some fine points that we all need to keep in the front of our mind. Kudos to you for battling Tyson over the disconnect between what paper says vs. what people do. Loved your slide colors, too ;-)

(b) (6), DVM

Enforcement Investigation Analysis Officer

Lawrence District Office

Field Operations, Food Safety Inspection Service

US Department of Agriculture

4920 Bob Billings Parkway

Lawrence, KS 66049-3855

Office (b) (6)

Fax 785-841-5623

Cell (b) (6)

"You can't wait for the storm to be over. You have to learn how to dance in the rain."

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re:  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:19:09 PM

---

No objections. They give up using pink slime?

(b) (6) @fsis.usda.gov

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 01:17 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:**

(b) (6) I came in early today cause there production numbers are down. And tomorrow there also not working and I'm going to come in early also if you don't have any objections.



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re:  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:01:10 PM

---

Lol if you have questions, feel free to call

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:00 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Will you give me a private tutorial, I really need the extra help?!?!?!?

You make it so much easier and interesting...seriously!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:55 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Go for it

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:50 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

I'd offer to train you as a re-fresher.

Should I bring up "Pink-Slime" as another ingredient with re-work or a multitude of other potential issues????

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Lol most of the time, I wish I still was a CSI

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:46 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW:

Did you know you are still listed as a CSI in the address book? I'd be upset and get that changes ASAP with an attached APOLOGY!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:38 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

Just for you...if it was (b) (6) forget-a-bout-it!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:34 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

I did appreciate that. Kind move

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:32 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE:

I'm sorry. I'll make it up to you!

I thought you just needed a break for talking...notice I directed it to the FLS and not you?!?  
!

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:10 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:**

I am cancelling our donut date ☺

(b) (6)

Enforcement, Investigations and Analysis Officer

411 Waverly Oaks Dr.

Building 3, Suite 332

Waltham, MA.

(800) 772 - 7033 ext. (b) (6)

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email immediate

From: (b) (6) @charlesholtandassoc.com  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: Re:  
Date: Friday, March 16, 2012 11:08:42 AM

---

Pink slime is the beef by-product I called pig slime by mistake. It was on NPR again today with worries that it might contain bacteria. Are you ready for St Patrick Day Saturday? The area around your apt should be hopping.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) - FSIS"  
Sent: Mar 15, 2012 2:43 PM  
To: (b) (6) @charlesholtandassoc.com"  
Subject:

I had dinner with (b) (6) last night and she said Louis has been dating. That surprises me. I figured he was too "quare".

(b) (6)

 (b) (6), *Relief CSI*

*Chandler's 02615 M  
2727 Immanuel Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27407  
USDA phone (b) (6)*

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**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Re:  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:52:35 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

Fair point - we will work on those faqs

---

**From:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:47 AM  
**To:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Subject:** Re:

I don't like that it makes it seem like this can still be used as cost cutting measure. That will seem like it will go to the poorer school districts. Something to consider as you work on statement.

Carol Blake

Assistant Administrator

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

1400 Independence Ave, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: (202) 720-3884 NOTE NEW NUMBER

Cell: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Lavallee, Aaron - OC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:39 AM  
**To:** Blake, Carol - FSIS  
**Subject:**

**OPTION 3:** Publicly reaffirm USDA has no reason to question the safety of LFTB with regard to purchases that USDA has made or is making this school year, but only permit its use in certain ground beef specifications for USDA purchases for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year. These certain ground beef specifications would likely be limited to either products that are delivered directly to the States in such quantity that it would be administratively feasible to offer "with" and "without" LFTB specifications such as boxed fine ground beef as well as with products that are typically commercially produced with LFTB such as 95 percent lean ground beef patties. In both cases the ordering agencies would be clearly informed of the possible inclusion of LFTB in the product.

PROS:

- Directly addresses constituent concerns about the use of LFTB in ground beef purchased by USDA for Federal food and nutrition assistance programs, including hundreds of contacts from school officials, parents, and State agencies.

- Provides recipient agencies with the option of procuring certain beef items at as low a cost as possible by making an informed decision to allow for the inclusion of LFTB. It is estimated that the inclusion of LFTB could decrease the delivered cost of fine ground beef by 1-3 percent.
- Allows USDA to directly determine if recipients are still willing to order products containing LFTB for determining future actions by allowing for a “with” and “without” LFTB fine ground beef product option.
- Addresses online petitions to the Secretary to ban the use of “pink slime” in school food, one of which has garnered over 180,000 signatures as of March 12, 2012.
- Provides a mechanism to provide more information and a choice to States and school systems in terms of products that do not allow LFTB and those which may contain LFTB.
- Similar to process already in place for irradiated beef products, which provides States and school districts to order irradiated products if they so choose.
- By eliminating the inclusion of LFTB in USDA-purchased ground beef, it could encourage recipients to consider ground beef items formulated with other inexpensive and healthy lean beef alternatives such as ground beef items made with added prune puree.

**CONS:**

- May adversely impact commercial use of LFTB since USDA procurement policies are closely followed by a host of interested parties, and may create the appearance of an inconsistent USDA approach regarding LFTB usage, as FSIS permits the raw material in commercial products.
- Would restrict the inclusion of LFTB to products that account for less than a quarter of the USDA frozen beef purchase program.
- Could negate the price advantage of LFTB if limited demand and small orders lead to higher costs and bid prices.
- May continue to cast public doubt about the safety and acceptability of LFTB.

**Aaron Lavallee**

Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Office Direct: 202.720.6959

Cell: (b) (6)

[aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov)

<http://www.usda.gov>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re:  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 4:56:15 AM

---

Get well have (b) (6) Baby you! :).

----- Original Message -----

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 03:13 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:**

Good Morning,

I need to request sick leave today as well as I am still aching, sneezing, etc. I don't check bb very well since am sleepy from meds but will have ringer on. Check out ABC news for the story on pink slime in ground beef.

Have a quiet day.

(b) (6)

**From:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Re:  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 6:56:44 AM

---

Ok, I will be in at 8:00.

Jeff

Jeffrey W. Canavan, MPA, RD  
Deputy Director  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD

---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 05:54 AM  
**To:** Ballard, Tammie - FSIS; Canavan, Jeff - FSIS  
**Subject:**

I am running late. In by 7:30  
Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:02 AM  
**To:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

I just talked with Shannon Nally from the standards division of NOP. She said the NOP definitely **does not allow ammonia hydroxide**/ it is not approved for use on the NOP substance list.

(b) (6), Food Technologist  
Labeling and Program Delivery Division  
USDA, FSIS, OPPD, LPDD  
Stop Code 3784 Patriot Plaza III, 8-161A  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20250-3700  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Fax: (202)245-4792 or (202) 245-4795  
Email: [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)

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---

**From:** Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?



Can you send this to NOP for a response?

Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins, Director

LPDD- OPPD-FSIS-USDA

(301) 504-0878 Main Line - Fax: (202) 245-4792

Submit your questions to...

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

Website: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_Fsis/labeling\\_&\\_consumer\\_protection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/labeling_&_consumer_protection/index.asp)

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---

**From:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:47 AM

**To:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS

**Cc:** Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS; Edelstein, Rachel - FSIS; Blake, Carol - FSIS

**Subject:** RE: Organic Beef allows "Pink Slime" ?

To go a step further – can “organic” beef include Finely Textured Lean Beef?

Dirk Fillpot

Media Supervisor

Congressional and Public Affairs

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Phone: (202) 690-3112

Cell: (202) 695-9950

[dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:dirk.fillpot@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

**From:** [Shelton, Dierdre - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** REPORT OF INVESTIGATION HUMBOLDT RICK ICS-SIR-12-0033.docx  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 8:06:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [REPORT OF INVESTIGATION HUMBOLDT RICK ICS-SIR-12-0033.docx](#)

---

(b) (6)

It appears that you have already given Mike SIR-12-0033. Therefore, Terrence Export case cannot be ICS-SIR-12-0033.

*Dierdre Shelton.*

*Branch Chief.*

USDA, FSIS, OPEER

1400 Independence Ave, SW

Room 3823-South Building

Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

Telephone: (202) 690-5655 Office

Cell: (202) 329-0018

Fax: (202) 720-0597

**From:** [DeJong, Justin](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - AMS](#); [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**Cc:** [Lavallee, Aaron](#)  
**Subject:** Report  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 2:55:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

Hi all,

On the “pink slime” convos last week, there was some discussion about reports that have validated the safety of our beef product for NSLP. Checking in to see if someone can point me to these?

**Justin DeJong**

Deputy Director, Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Office Direct: 202.690.0548  
USDA Cell: 202.251.3309  
[justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov](mailto:justin.dejong@oc.usda.gov)  
<http://www.usda.gov>

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**From:** [Footprints Footprints](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Report: SOTA: Today's Calls  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 5:03:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [report\\_file12208.html](#)

---

The attached report (SOTA: Today's Calls) has been auto-run and sent to you by FootPrints.

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Request - ABC 5 IA  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:09:41 PM

---

Dirk –

I'm sure this was forwarded but since it has to do with pink slime, I wanted to email as well:

(b) (6) 03/22/2012 4:02 PM (GMT -4:00):

Katie Eastman called from ABC 5 in Iowa hoping to get an interview with someone on the ground in IA or a statement from the Agency regarding Pink Slime.

Her deadline is ASAP as she is reporting for tonight's 10 PM CT broadcast.

She can be reached at (515) 457-1026 or [keastman@myabc5.com](mailto:keastman@myabc5.com)

Bill Bagley

Public Affairs Specialist

USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service

Congressional and Public Affairs

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250

Desk: (202) 720-0286

bb: (202) 731-2152

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

**PHIS has arrived. Learn more at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS/index.asp>**

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Retail - Pink Slime language  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:40:39 AM  
**Attachments:** [Silvia Holt incoming.pdf](#)  
[Silvia Holt-Pink Slime11111.docx](#)

---

Hi (b) (6)

FYI

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) *Issues Analyst*

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Check your Steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basis/index.html>**

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** review Weekly FOIA Report  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 10:14:24 AM  
**Attachments:** [3-16-12 Weekly FOIA Report.docx](#)  
[3-23-12 Weekly FOIA Report.docx](#)

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Please review before I forward to (b) (6) . Thanks

(b) (6)

Management Analyst

USDA/FSIS/FOIA

Washington, DC 20250

Office: (b) (6)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Lavalley, Aaron - OC](#)  
**Cc:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** revised TPs  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 11:45:03 AM  
**Attachments:** [Talking Points on New Labeling Option for Lean Finely Textured Beef.docx](#)

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Attached



**From:** [FSIS Labeling](#)  
**To:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RightNow Service Notification  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:14:55 AM

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#### Incident Assigned Notification

Generated By Lynn Yoder, 03/09/2012 08:14 AM

Reference #120308-000124

-----  
Summary: Message from Internet User - Pink Slime is an outrage  
Product Level 1: Labeling  
Category Level 1: Labeling Regulations, Policies & Claims  
Date Created: 03/08/2012 10:42 PM  
Last Updated: 03/09/2012 08:14 AM  
Status: Unresolved  
Assigned: Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins  
Policy Arena?: Domestic (U.S.) Only  
Phone Number:  
Establishment Number:  
Establishment Size:  
Call Duration:  
Phone Incident:  
Direct Email Incident:  
Analytics Flag:  
Analysis Product:  
Analysis Category:  
Policy Follow-up: No

#### Key Words

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#### Analysis Notes

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#### Discussion Thread

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Auto-Response - 03/08/2012 10:42 PM

Your question has been received by the Labeling and Program Delivery Division. The reference number for your question is 120308-000124. You should receive a response from us within 5 business days.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/118805/username/\(b\) \(6\) verizon.net](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/118805/username/(b) (6) verizon.net)

Thank you,  
LPDD Staff

Customer By Email (david burns) - 03/08/2012 10:42 PM

What the hell is going on up there at the USDA? I can't believe what I am seeing in the news about your agency. You approve Pink Slime as food for humans added to hamburger? I have completely lost

[REDACTED] not be eating har [REDACTED] of any kind until this garbage is outlawed. I  
[REDACTED] movie fiction - now I see we are almost there after all. This is an outrage  
[REDACTED] erican people, and heads should roll over it. Please forward this email as you wish.

Spring

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [FSIS Labeling](#)  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RightNow Service Notification  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:22:35 AM

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Incident Assigned Notification

Generated By (b) (6) 03/20/2012 11:22 AM

Reference #120320-000043

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Summary: Labeling Product with Claim that ground beef  
product doesn't contain LFTB  
Product Level 1: Labeling  
Category Level 1: Labeling Regulations, Policies & Claims  
Category Level 2: Special Claims  
Date Created: 03/20/2012 10:36 AM  
Last Updated: 03/20/2012 11:22 AM  
Status: Unresolved  
Assigned: Jeff Canavan  
Policy Arena?: Domestic (U.S.) Only  
Phone Number: (828) 406-0235  
Establishment Number: M-34176  
Establishment Size: Small  
Call Duration:  
Phone Incident:  
Direct Email Incident:  
Analytics Flag:  
Analysis Product:  
Analysis Category:  
Policy Follow-up: No

Key Words

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Analysis Notes

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Discussion Thread

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Auto-Response - 03/20/2012 10:36 AM

Your question has been received by the Labeling and Program Delivery Division. The reference number for your question is 120320-000043. You should receive a response from us within 5 business days.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119631/username/lrwhittington](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119631/username/lrwhittington)

Thank you,  
LPDD Staff

Customer By Web Form (Larry Whittington) - 03/20/2012 10:36 AM

Can an establishment that receives ground beef from other suppliers, and also grinds bench trim

[REDACTED] label thier product [REDACTED] hat their product doesn't contain "pink  
beef if they can show supporting documentation from their suppliers that  
snt contain this material?

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [FSIS Policy Development Division](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RightNow Service Notification  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 12:27:53 PM

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#### Incident Updated Notification

Generated By System, 03/29/2012 12:27 PM

Reference #120329-000013

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Summary: Egg Products - Thermal Leakers - Darell Wagner  
or Suzanne Hasiak  
Product Level 1: General Inspection Policy  
Category Level 1: Egg Products  
Date Created: 03/29/2012 09:46 AM  
Last Updated: 03/29/2012 12:27 PM  
Status: Updated by Customer  
Assigned: (b) (6)  
Policy Arena?: Domestic (U.S.) Only  
Phone Number: 479-387-5264  
Establishment Number:  
Establishment Size: Not Applicable  
Call Duration:  
Phone Incident:  
Direct Email Incident:  
Analytics Flag:  
Analysis Product:  
Analysis Category:  
Policy Follow-up: No

#### Key Words

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#### Analysis Notes

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#### Discussion Thread

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Customer By Email (Brian Mahan) - 03/29/2012 12:27 PM

Thanks for the info and help. I could have made this a lot easier if I just would have cited the right reg. in my original question. I meant 590.510(d), not 590.510(c), although say what you mean, mean what you say would apply to what I originally stated. I am sure that you will probably be hearing about it.

Response Via Email(Darrell Wagner) - 03/29/2012 11:29 AM

Again.....590.510 (d)(5) would support that "leaker" salvage from washed shell eggs be considered inedible and not for human consumption. By George, I think this is it. This is what you need to counter the "salvage" option.

Response Via Email(Darrell Wagner) - 03/29/2012 11:15 AM

One more thing Brian.

The discussion in 590.510 and 590 508 are before the discussion in the regulation about cleaning eggs (590.515). So in the context of already clean eggs some of the "salvage" discussion on "leakers" in the other two parts would not include the use of washing in dirty water. This might be you best

ammunition...give it some thought.

Darrell.

Response Via Email(Darrell Wagner) - 03/29/2012 10:51 AM  
Hello Brian:

As you know this regulation 590.510 (c)(2) and 590.508(d) are the "dirty laundry" of egg products breaking operations. The salvaging of these "leakers" and the prevention of contamination and/or adulteration are in direct conflict. 590.510(c)(1) is also problematic but the membrane being intact some how suggests that the risk is less. I fully understand your dilemma. After the class we discussed the training in this area because frankly we all agree these regulations need to GO. However, that is not easy. These regulations were written in 1970 when things were different. In today's (pink slime era) these are embarrassing regulations for anyone who understands what they mean. If the policy was that no leakers are eligible to be broken then things would be fixed, at least in this issue. Maybe the time has come for the policy to trump the regulation.

The S Corporation will put up a good fight because they will tell you that they have the regulation (black and white) on their side. You would only have common sense, professional judgment and concern for adulteration and food safety on your side (HA HA).

We have been waiting for Egg Products to go to HACCP and this would be gone automatically.  
WELL.....we are still waiting.

Yes you would be justified in making the establishment demonstrate further evidence of the sanitary condition of these eggs. You can request the plant to either demonstrate to you that keeping these eggs results in wholesome product or that they reject these eggs for breaking.

I wish you well. I concur with your concerns, thought process and your professional judgment.

Darrell Wagner

P.S. Let me know how it works out. Thanks.

Auto-Response - 03/29/2012 09:46 AM

Your message has been received at the FSIS Policy Development Division (PDD) and will be assigned to a staff specialist for response.

Our goal is to provide an accurate response as quickly as possible—in most instances, this will be within two working days. Some questions, however, require extensive research and will take longer to answer. If you would like to know the status of your question, you can telephone PDD for additional discussion at 1-800-233-3935 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. Please refer to the incident reference number below when calling for clarification.

The reference number for your question is 120329-000013.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/120485/username/brian.mahan@fsis.usda.gov](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/120485/username/brian.mahan@fsis.usda.gov)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Policy Development Division.

Customer By Web Form (Brian Mahan) - 03/29/2012 09:46 AM

This is Brian Mahan. I am the FLS that covers EST 21932G in Springdale, AR. Since egg training, I have looked into the issue of thermal leakers. During training, you said it would probably not be an issue because most places were not keeping these. Well, guess what, EST 21932G is keeping these. I know in the training material they are discussed as acceptable, but I have an issue with these from a regulatory standpoint and sanitary condition standpoint. I wanted to get your thoughts and ideas and see if I would be justified in making the establishment demonstrate further evidence of the sanitary condition of

these eggs due to the following (I know you know the regs, so quoting regs is not to point them out to you, it is to demonstrate that I have tried to look into this and come to a supportable conclusion):

1. 590.510(c) says that open eggs created during the washing operation are not allowed and are inedible - I realize that a "thermal leaker" is created during the wash operation, and while the opening is tiny, there is an opening into the egg.
2. Wash water is reused and contains foreign materials, etc. I realize that this wash water has detergents, etc. added and should have a continuous overflow to help clean the egg of foreign material and bacteria, but the water utilized is still not "clean" from an organoleptic perspective and I would assume would not be from a bacteriological standpoint either.
3. This same egg continues and is run through sanitizer at the required concentrations. The eggs are required to be dry enough at breaking so this sanitizer does not drip into the egg during breaking because it is at high enough levels that it is not accepted as product contact.

Question: That being said, a thermal leaker being opened where just tiny amounts of albumen are above the edge of the egg would allow contaminants (from the wash water and the sanitizer at levels that are not allowed to contact other non-egg products, so I assume would not be allowed to contact egg products) to contact albumen that will be passed through the food chain. For this reason (and I know they are not HACCP), even though the allowance of thermal leakers is discussed in the training, can I request the plant either show me additional demonstration that keeping these eggs results in wholesome product or if they cannot, reject these eggs for breaking?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the phone number below. It is my Blackberry number.

**From:** [FSIS Labeling](#)  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RightNow Service Notification  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:49:01 AM

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#### Incident Assigned Notification

Generated By Lynn Yoder, 03/28/2012 09:48 AM

Reference #120323-000106

-----  
Summary: Pink Slime in ground beef  
Product Level 1: Labeling  
Category Level 1: Food Standards of Identity & Composition  
Date Created: 03/23/2012 09:07 PM  
Last Updated: 03/28/2012 09:48 AM  
Status: Waiting on Customer  
Assigned: Jeff Canavan  
Policy Arena?: Domestic (U.S.) Only  
Phone Number: (509) 543-4266  
Establishment Number: M9268  
Establishment Size: Large  
Call Duration:  
Phone Incident:  
Direct Email Incident:  
Analytics Flag:  
Analysis Product:  
Analysis Category:  
Policy Follow-up: No

#### Key Words

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#### Analysis Notes

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#### Discussion Thread

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Response Via Email(Janet McGinn) - 03/27/2012 04:54 PM

Just to be clear, are you asking about ammoniated beef trimmings? Are you asking whether this product meets the definition of "meat" or whether it would be considered a "meat byproduct"? Do you have a specific concern with the incoming materials as it relates to the establishment to which you're assigned?

Auto-Response - 03/27/2012 04:47 PM

Your question has been reassigned to the Labeling and Program Delivery Division. The reference number for your question is 120323-000106. You should receive a response from us within 5 business days.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/120124/username/kevo4anatone](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/120124/username/kevo4anatone)

Thank you,



LPDD Staff

Auto-Response - 03/23/2012 09:07 PM

Your message has been received at the FSIS Risk and Innovations Management Division (RIMD) and is being assigned to a Staff Specialist for response.

Our goal is to provide an accurate response as quickly as possible—in most instances, this will be within two working days. However, Retained Water Protocol submissions will be answered within 30 days and New Technologies notification and protocol submissions will be answered within 60 days.

If the response that you receive does not completely answer your technical concerns, you can telephone RMD for additional discussion at 1-(301) 504-0884 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday. Please refer to the incident number when calling for clarification.

The reference number for your question is 120323-000106.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/120124/username/kevo4anatone](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/120124/username/kevo4anatone)

Thank you for contacting the FSIS Risk and Innovations Management Division.

Customer By Web Form (Kenneth Bloom) - 03/23/2012 09:07 PM

The blocks of the "treated" beef fat/trimmings which go into the pink slime that is in many ground beef products, would that fall under 9CFR318.1(h)(2) as a "meat byproduct"? I ask this as the establishment I'm at brings this stuff in from another Federally Inspected establishment to be added to certain ground beef products.

**From:** [FSIS Labeling](#)  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RightNow Service Notification  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 10:23:48 AM

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#### Incident Assigned Notification

Generated By Lynn Yoder, 03/12/2012 10:23 AM

Reference #120312-000017

-----  
Summary: Pink Slime  
Product Level 1: Labeling  
Category Level 1: Food Standards of Identity & Composition  
Date Created: 03/12/2012 09:43 AM  
Last Updated: 03/12/2012 10:23 AM  
Status: Unresolved  
Assigned: Jeff Canavan  
Policy Arena?: International (Import/Export)  
Phone Number:  
Establishment Number:  
Establishment Size:  
Call Duration:  
Phone Incident:  
Direct Email Incident:  
Analytics Flag:  
Analysis Product:  
Analysis Category:  
Policy Follow-up: No

#### Key Words

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#### Analysis Notes

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#### Discussion Thread

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Auto-Response - 03/12/2012 09:43 AM

Your question has been received by the Labeling and Program Delivery Division. The reference number for your question is 120312-000017. You should receive a response from us within 5 business days.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/118941/username/gattino5@yahoo.com](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/118941/username/gattino5@yahoo.com)

Thank you,  
LPDD Staff

Customer By Email (tina valentine) - 03/12/2012 09:43 AM

I want to know when filler has been added to the meat I buy. You must specifically define "meat" that is intended for human consumption as "muscle meat." If the product contains anything other than muscle tissue, then a label must be added to the package to alert the consumer. Not all of us want to

[REDACTED] e!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] issue!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tina Ver

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [FSIS Labeling](#)  
**To:** [Canavan, Jeff - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** RightNow Service Notification  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:44:24 AM

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Incident Assigned Notification

Generated By (b) (6) 03/22/2012 08:44 AM

Reference #120321-000134

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Summary: Lean finely textured beef aka "Pink Slime" and  
the Future  
Product Level 1: Labeling  
Category Level 1: Labeling Regulations, Policies & Claims  
Date Created: 03/21/2012 05:57 PM  
Last Updated: 03/22/2012 08:44 AM  
Status: Unresolved  
Assigned: Jeff Canavan  
Policy Arena?: Domestic (U.S.) Only  
Phone Number:  
Establishment Number:  
Establishment Size:  
Call Duration:  
Phone Incident:  
Direct Email Incident:  
Analytics Flag:  
Analysis Product:  
Analysis Category:  
Policy Follow-up: No

Key Words

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Analysis Notes

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Discussion Thread

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Auto-Response - 03/21/2012 05:57 PM

Your question has been received by the Labeling and Program Delivery Division. The reference number for your question is 120321-000134. You should receive a response from us within 5 business days.

You may update your incident at

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i\\_id/119874/username/ericzandona@gmail.com](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/account/questions/detail/i_id/119874/username/ericzandona@gmail.com)

Thank you,  
LPDD Staff

Customer By Email (Eric Zandona) - 03/21/2012 05:57 PM  
To whom it may concern:

Today I read that Safeway had decided to stop selling meat that contained "pink slime" which is great news considering that many consumers were going to stop buy their meat because of it.

I hope that you realize that when American's have the real information about what goes into their food they respond in a reasonable and rational way. I am concerned that the government agencies that have been established to protect and inform consumers about what is going into the food supply has become a spokesman for food companies. The response to consumer concern from the USDA has been simply to say "its safe." Whether "pink slim" is safe to ingest or not the fact is that the majority of people would chose not to eat meat that has been treated with ammonia. Yet our government mandated food labels print the euphemism "Lean finely textured beef" which is tells the consumer nothing about the fact that it contains meat treated with ammonia.

In the future it would be appreciated if the FDA and USDA would take a more common sense approach to the names they give processed food by saying what is actually in them. The general guideline of these agencies should be to inform the public about what is going into their food whether it is ammonia, or GMO or some other product that they public might have concerns about. Whether or not a food product is safe is irrelevant to the fact that giving pink slime the name lean finely textured beef does more to protect the bottom line of large food produces than giving the public the information they need to make informed decisions about the food they purchase.

I am not saying arguing that selling lean finely textured beef should be illegal but that the consumers need to be empowered to make the decision for themselves if they want to buy food products that contain ammonia or other know cleaning chemicals.

Sincerely,  
Eric Zandona  
(b) (6)  
San Francisco, CA 94110

**From:** [email@addthis.com](mailto:email@addthis.com) on behalf of [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Safeway to Stop Selling 'Pink Slime' Textured Beef  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:39:17 AM

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FYI, here is the story Brian Hartman referenced.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/safeway-to-stop-selling-pink-slime-textured-beef/#.T2m94GFj1Tl.email>

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** School Lunch Program Pink Slime  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 3:31:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [Nancy Zazzaro-Pink Slime.docx](#)

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FYI

*Thanks and Have a Wonderful Day!*

(b) (6) Issues Analyst

*Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff*

*Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education*

*Food Safety and Inspection Service*

*1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Room 1166-S, Washington, DC 20250-3700*

*Phone:* (b) (6) *Fax:* (202) 720-7609

*Email:* (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

**Check your Steps at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basis/index.html>**

**From:** (b) (6) - AMS  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) @hotmail.com  
**Subject:** School Lunches to Get 7 Million Pounds of Pink Slime | Video | TheBlaze.com  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:59:24 AM

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What the @\$%! Is this the new Soy lent Green?! Its People! Its People!

<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/usda-buys-7-million-pounds-of-pink-slime-for-school-lunches/>



**From:** [Monifa, MomsRising.org](http://Monifa.MomsRising.org)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Schools can choose. Why can't we?!  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 12:47:41 PM

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Dear (b) (6)

Last week thousands of MomsRising moms and dads expressed concern about pink slime. Pink Slime is a food additive made from spare beef trimmings that's treated with ammonium hydroxide to kill off E. Coli, salmonella, and other possible bacteria, and is in grocery stores, cafeterias, and restaurants across the nation.[1] In fact, one article from ABC news reported that according to a former U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist 70% of supermarket ground beef contained the additive." [2]

MomsRising members weren't the only ones speaking up. Petitions and letters from hundreds of thousands of people all over the country pressured policy makers to do something to make sure that we all have access to the healthiest foods as well as information on labels to inform what we serve our families. [3]

When we speak loud enough and in large enough numbers, leaders listen. On Friday, The USDA made a decision to allow schools to refuse pink slime as part of their federally subsidized school lunch programs. Schools across the country will be able to work with parents to determine whether or not to purchase and serve pink slime. [4]

If schools can decide what to feed our children, why can't we?

**\*Join us in urging THE USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least to require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide not to buy it in the stores:**

[http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3201.667234.uRh\\_2x&t=4](http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3201.667234.uRh_2x&t=4)

Our families deserve to eat high quality foods--and pink slime is most definitely NOT on our list of good eats.

When you do take action via the above link, you'll send an important message to USDA and FDA that moms and dads are paying close attention to the food our children and families eat from the school cafeteria to the supermarket.

Why?

Our children are facing increasing health risks related to their diets. As parents, we make every effort to feed them quality, wholesome foods but we can't do that if we don't even know what's in the products we buy. It's time to take pink slime off of the menu and off of grocery store shelves--or at least require it to be listed on food labels so moms and dads can decide what's in the best interest of their families.

With children facing many health problems linked to poor nutrition, it's time to take pink slime off the grocery store shelves and off the menus.

**\*Moms and dads are paying attention! Join us in urging USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least to require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide not to buy it in the stores:** [http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3201.667234.uRh\\_2x&t=6](http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3201.667234.uRh_2x&t=6)

What exactly is this "slime"? The slime consists of beef by-products: cow intestines, connective tissue, and other parts that are not used in traditional beef cuts. And, don't forget the ammonia! [5]

Urge USDA and FDA to get pink slime out of ground beef now, or at the very least require labels to list it as an ingredient so that we can decide not to buy it!

**Families deserve to eat high quality food!**



[Take Action](#)

**Yuck!** Please take a moment to sign on--and to forward this email to friends (and post the action link on your Facebook page) so others can sign on too.

[http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3201.667234.uRh\\_2x&t=8](http://action.momsrising.org/go/1671?akid=3201.667234.uRh_2x&t=8)

Together we're a powerful force for women and families,

- Monifa, Donna and the whole MomsRising team

P.S. Join us this Thursday for a live Tweetchat from the White House about health care and health care reform! To join us "live," just follow @MomsRising on Twitter starting at 11:00am PST/ 2:00pm EST on Thursday, March 22nd. We'll be using this hashtag #ACAwhchat on Twitter.

[1] [ABC News](#)

[2] Ibid

[3] [Huffington Post](#)

[4] [LA Times](#)

[5] [USA Today](#)

**Like what we're doing?** [Donate: We're a bootstrap, low overhead, mom run organization.](#) Your donations make the work of MomsRising.org possible--and we deeply appreciate your support. Every little bit counts.

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What should MomsRising tackle next? [Tell us what's on your mind](#).



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**From:** [CBudak](#)  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Scientist who coined "pink slime" worked for USDA  
**Date:** Sunday, March 25, 2012 12:19:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [Scientist who coined "Pink Slime" reluctant whistleblower.pdf](#)

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OOPS!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS  
**Cc:** Mabry, Brian - FSIS; DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS; Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS  
**Subject:** Senate Ag Minority Briefing  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:59:32 AM

---

Ken:

Phil is going to need to be on a multi-agency conference call with Senate Ag Committee minority staff later on today, and I wanted to make sure he's well prepared if Gerald Zirnstein or Carl Custer come up. We don't have any talkers here at CPAO on that aspect; are there any words of wisdom you might be able to share? It's OK if you want to talk with Phil directly about it, just let me know. Quick background and a link to the story below.

**Gerald Zirnstein** who, in an USDA memo, first coined the term "pink slime" and is now coming forward to say he won't buy it. "It's economic fraud," he told ABC News. "It's not fresh ground beef. ... It's a cheap substitute being added in." Zirnstein and his fellow USDA scientist, **Carl Custer**, both warned against using what the industry calls "lean finely textured beef," widely known now as "pink slime," but their government bosses overruled them.

Story here:

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/03/70-percent-of-ground-beef-at-supermarkets-contains-pink-slime/>

Thanks –

Christopher Gould

Congressional & Public Affairs Office

USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service

202-690-4546 (desk)

202-365-0186 (cell)

202-720-5704 (fax)

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Signature for the Pink Slime letter  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:33:41 AM

---

Good Morning Dan, have you made a decision on the Pink Slime letter as whether or not you would prepare to sign them or can I use your signature.

(b) (6)

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

*(Desk)* (b) (6)

*(Fax) 202-720-7609*

*FSIS/OPACE/ECIMS*

*TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION,*

*BUT THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE*

*DR. MARTIN L. KING*

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [DiNapoli, Greg - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#); [Gaffney, Neil - FSIS](#); [McIntire, Richard - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS; [Cochran, Catherine - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Derrickson, Nichele - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Significant FOIA Report Week Ending March 23, 2012  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 11:26:48 AM  
**Attachments:** [7197987-Significant FOIA Report ending March 23, 2012\[1\].docx](#)

---

*Michele Simms*

*Food Safety & Inspection Service*

*Congressional & Public Affairs Office*

*Room 1175 South Building*

*Phone: (202) 690-3774*

*Fax: (202) 720-5704*

[michele.simms@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:michele.simms@fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** [Petersen, Kenneth - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Silvia Holt - Pink Slime 7184162  
**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:44:43 AM

---

(b) (6)

Please retrieve the subject letter from OFO, during your morning mail run. It was submitted for Ken Petersen's signature erroneously, but needs to be revised with additional language, as well as Dan's signature block. Afterwards, please give to Martha and she will update.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** slime letter  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:30:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [Silvia Holt-Pink Slime11.docx](#)

---

Hi (b) (6)

Please revise the paragraph about USDA ground beef (highlighted on the attached) per Brian's direction.

Thank you.

*René Cardwell*, Deputy Director  
ECIMS-OPACE/FSIS

Room 1163-South Building  
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250  
Office: (202) 720-9945 Cell: (202) 503-7113 Fax: (202) 205-0158

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly



From: (b) (6)  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: slime  
Date: Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:52:16 PM

---

"Pink slime" -- the ground beef additive maligned by a celebrity chef and incorrectly depicted in an Internet image as a fluffy pink concoction resembling [soft-serve](#) ice cream -- may not be appearing on your child's lunch tray come fall.

And that would be news to celebrate were it not for a new study suggesting, as The Times recently reported, that [all red meat is bad](#) for you anyway.

A spokesman with the [USDA](#)'S Food Safety and Inspection Service confirmed to The Times that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be making an announcement Thursday concerning the food additive and the national school lunch program.

An Associated Press report earlier in the day, citing an unnamed official at the USDA (apparently no one wants to be tainted by "pink slime"), said the agency would announce that schools will be able to choose between 95% lean beef patties made with the additive or bulk ground beef without it -- that is less lean.

Apparently, you can't have your non-pink-slime beef and have it be lean too.

[Chef Jamie Oliver has said](#) that what the USDA and the meat industry call "lean beef trimmings" really are "all of the bits that no one wants." Then ammonium hydroxide is mixed in to kill bacteria such as [E. coli](#) and [salmonella](#).

Steven Cohen, director of media relations at the International Food Information Council, a Washington-based nonprofit backed by food, beverage and agricultural companies, recently provided [some information](#) about the ammonium hydroxide process. Tidbits include:

--Ammonium hydroxide was affirmed safe by the [FDA](#) in 1974 after an extensive review.

--Ammonium hydroxide is used as a "direct food additive" extensively in items including "baked goods, cheese, chocolates" and more.

So why are so many people appalled by its use in food?

Likely because ammonium hydroxide is also used as a "sanitizer in many household and industrial cleaners."

Yep, that'll do it.

So, which is worse -- leaner beef with the FDA-approved additive? Or the alternative?

The Times has calls and emails out to several food industry sources and is awaiting opinions.



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Standard Text for Chat inquiries : beef trimmings treated with ammonium hydroxide  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 11:08:07 AM

---

What do you think of this to add to Ask Karen Standard Text for chat (see below)?

(I combined Brian's statement and Diane's, modifying Diane's for chat service)

"All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.

We have a record of your concern in our chat database. The Agency periodically reviews our database and they will see your concern that you have registered."

(b) (6) will translate for Preguntele a Karen.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) RD RN

Technical Information Specialist  
USDA/FSIS Food Safety Education Staff  
2L-248D  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Phone (b) (6)  
(b) (6) fsis.usda.gov

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:32 AM  
**To:** Van, Diane - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Pink Slime Calls

Thank you Diane

This is very helpful to have for this and future 'challenging' calls

(b) (6)

-----

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

USDA-FSIS-FSE Staff

Meat and Poultry Hotline

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5269

Beltsville, MD 20705-5000

Tel: (b) (6)

e-mail: (b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.usda.gov)

---

**From:** Van, Diane - FSIS

**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 10:30 AM

**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - Commissioned Corps - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS

**Cc:** Tuverson, Robert - FSIS

**Subject:** Pink Slime Calls

Hotline Staff,

When you get an irate caller who is complaining that USDA should require labeling on products containing Ammonium Hydroxide (pink slime), here is a response you can give. This will very often diffuse an irate caller. All they really want is to be heard and register their complaint. If they think they are being heard they will calm down almost immediately. You can use this style of response for other irate callers as well. Always tell them (and it's true) that we are recording their concern. You do not have to use this wording verbatim:

"I understand your concern about the labeling of products that contain Ammonium Hydroxide. We record each call in our database and I have entered your concerns. The Agency periodically reviews our database and they will see your concern that you have registered."

Diane Van

Deputy Director, Food Safety Education Staff

Office of Public Affairs & Consumer Education

USDA/Food Safety & Inspection Service

5601 Sunnyside Ave., 2-L292

Beltsville, MD 20705

301-344-4777 Phone

301-504-0203 Fax

202-306-3857 Blackberry

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** STAR review  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:50:14 AM  
**Attachments:** [Keller STAR.pdf](#)

---

For your review.

(b) (6) *DVM*

Frontline Supervisor

Flint Circuit 45-13

c/o Koegel Meats

3400 Bristol Rd

Flint, MI 48507

BB: (b) (6)

**From:** [Boody, Elizabeth - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [FSIS - OPACE/CPA](#)  
**Subject:** Statement from Beef Products, Inc. Founder Eldon Roth on "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 8:20:26 AM

---

We agree, as do the nation's leading food safety authorities, with USDA's unequivocal statement that the BPI's Boneless Lean Beef Trimmings are safe, wholesome, and nutritious. Anyone that has seen BPI facilities and our processes understands why we have an unsurpassed food safety record.

We also agree with USDA's reiteration that this is 100% beef, plain and simple. As such, our lean beef has the same nutritional value as all other types of lean trim used to make ground beef and is the same great source of protein, iron, zinc and B-vitamins while also being very low in fat.

We are a proud supplier to the school lunch program because the AMS has set a standard of only approving suppliers who have demonstrated the highest degree of quality and safety in their beef. It is only because our lean beef is nutritious and has achieved consistently high food quality and safety reviews that it is permitted into the school lunch program.

As parents and consumers continue to make important decisions about the food they and their children eat, we hope that they listen to credible sources outside media sensationalists and take note of the overwhelming support from the government and scientific community who have routinely testified that our lean beef trimmings are 100% beef and are produced, and tested in a way that makes this food very safe.

The facts can be found at [pinkslimeisamyth.com](http://pinkslimeisamyth.com).

891 Two Rivers Drive ♦ Dakota Dunes, South Dakota 57049 ♦ (605)217-8000 ♦ Fax: (605)217-8001

Elizabeth Boody  
Legislative Analyst  
Congressional and Public Affairs Office  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 1180 - South Building  
Office Phone: (202) 720-6032  
Office Fax: (202) 690-0460

Blackberry: (202) 306-2507

**Be Food Safe:**

**CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often

**SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature

**CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Leach, Alicemary - FSIS](#); [Cardwell, Rene - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Status Report 3-20-12.xlsx  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:58:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [Status Report 3-20-12.xlsx](#)

---

Here's the updated status report. Please note that (b) (6) has letters that are coming in as pink slim and I have added the folders from the activity report. However, there are no correspondent entries as of yet so I placed Pink slim in them. Thanks

**From:** [Kim](#)  
**To:** [Taylor, Kim - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Stop Pink Slime Petition  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2012 10:14:33 AM

---

Petition (one of my contacts had posted on facebook) to stop the "pink slime".

[http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink\\_slime/?rc=fb\\_share2](http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pink_slime/?rc=fb_share2)

--

**Kim Taylor**

<http://flickr.com/kim>

<http://ktaylorphotos.com>

Twitter [@ktaylorphotos](#)

Facebook: <http://www.Facebook.com/finiky>



**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Almanza, Al - FSIS](#); [Derfler, Phil - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Stories on LFTB  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 8:09:06 PM

---

Fyi only.

Station:  
WJLA-DC (ABC)

Date:  
03/14/2012 18:40:58 - 6:50:58 PM

from one whistle-blower to another, we are getting reaction tonight. and the subject, pink slime. one week ago, jim avila brought us that report. a beef insider speaking out about something commonly known as pink slime. a filler used in 70% of all ground beef in this country, including the beef sold to public schools. jim's story prompted a public outcry. the usda heard it. and tomorrow, they will announce that starting this fall, schools will be given a choice. to buy the less-expensive hamburger patties that contain pink slime. or bulk ground beef that does not. and the usda insists that all that meat is safe. and what about the ground beef in your supermarket? the usda says grocers will have to decide for themselves what they want to disclose to their customers.

AP: Schools can choose 'pink slime' or no in beef

ALBANY, NY -- "Pink slime" just went from a simmer to a boil.

In less than a week this month, the stomach-turning epithet for ammonia-treated ground beef filler suddenly became a potent rallying cry by activists fighting to ban the product from supermarket shelves and school lunch trays. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is set to announce Thursday it will offer schools choice in ground beef purchases in response to requests from districts.

Though the term has been used pejoratively for at least several years, it wasn't until last week that social media suddenly exploded with worry and an online petition seeking its ouster from schools lit up, quickly garnering hundreds of thousands of supporters.

"It sounds disgusting," said food policy expert Marion Nestle, who notes that the unappetizing nickname made it easier for the food movement to flex its muscles over this cause.

"A lot of people have been writing about it. Therefore, more people know about it, therefore more people are queasy about it, particularly when you start thinking about how this stuff turns up in school lunches," said Nestle, a professor at New York University's Department of Nutrition, Food Studies and Public Health.

The controversy centers on "lean finely textured beef," a low-cost ingredient in ground beef made from fatty bits of meat left over from other cuts. The bits are heated to about 100 F and spun to remove most of the fat. The lean mix then is compressed into blocks for use in ground meat. The product, made by South Dakota-based Beef Products Inc., also is exposed to "a puff of ammonium hydroxide gas" to kill bacteria, such as E. coli and salmonella.

There are no precise numbers on how prevalent the product is, and it does not have to be labeled as an ingredient. Past estimates have ranged as high as 70 percent; one industry official estimates it is in at least half of the ground meat and burgers in the United States.

It has been on the market for years, and federal regulators say it meets standards for food safety. But advocates for wholesome food have denounced the process as a potentially unsafe and unappetizing example of industrialized food production.

The phrase "pink slime," coined by a federal microbiologist, has appeared in the media at least since a critical 2009 New York Times report. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver has railed against it, and it made headlines after McDonald's and other major chains last year discontinued their use of ammonia-treated beef.

But "pink slime" outrage appeared to reach new heights last week amid reports by The Daily and ABC News. The Daily piece dealt with the USDA's purchase of meat that included "pink slime" for school lunches.

The story touched a nerve with Houston resident Bettina Siegel, whose blog "The Lunch Tray" focuses on kids' food. On March 6, she started an online petition on Change.org asking Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to "put an immediate end to the use of 'pink slime' in our children's school food."

"When I put it up, I had this moment of embarrassment," she said, "What if only 10 people sign this?"

No problem there. Supporters signed on fast. By Wednesday afternoon, the electronic petition had more than 220,000 signatures. Organizers of Change.org said the explosive growth is rare among the roughly 10,000 petitions started there every month.

Meanwhile, Google searches for "pink slime" spiked dramatically. It has become the food version of Joseph Kony, the rogue African warlord virtually unknown in the United States until this month, when an online video campaign against him caught fire.

But why is "pink slime" striking a chord now?

Issues can go from a simmer to an explosion when content with broad interest -- such as like food safety -- is picked up and disseminated by widely connected people, said Marc A. Smith, director of the Social Media Research Foundation. These people act like "broadcast hubs," dispersing the information to different communities.

"What's happening is that the channels whereby this flood can go down this hill have expanded," Smith said. "The more there are things like Twitter, the easier it is for these powder kegs to explode."

In this case, Siegel thinks the added element of children's school lunches could have set off this round.

"That's what upset me. This idea that children are passively sitting in a lunch room eating what the government sees fit to feed them and McDonald's has chosen not to use it, but the government is still feeding it to them," she said. "That really got my ire."

The USDA -- which did not directly address Siegel's petition -- buys about a fifth of the food served in schools nationwide. The agency this year is contracted to buy 111.5 million pounds of ground beef for the National School Lunch Program. About 7 million pounds of that is from Beef Products Inc., though the pink product in question never accounts for more than 15 percent of a single serving of ground beef.

Under the change to be announced Thursday, schools will be able to choose between 95 percent lean beef patties made with the product or less lean bulk ground beef without it. The new policy won't affect ground beef at schools until this fall because of existing contracts, according to a USDA official with knowledge of the decision.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official announcement was not made yet, said that the agency believes the ammonia treatment is safe, but that it wanted to be transparent and that school districts wanted choices.

"School districts have made requests and school districts want, basically, choice," the official said. "And we respect that, they're our customers."

Beef Product Inc. stresses that its product is 100 percent lean beef and is approved by a series of industry experts. The company's new website, [pinkslimeisamyth.com](http://pinkslimeisamyth.com), rebuts some common criticisms of the product ("Myth 4: Boneless lean beef trimmings are produced from inedible meat").

The National Meat Association also has joined the fight, disputing claims that the product is made from "scraps destined for pet food" and other claims. The industry group also said that ammonium hydroxide is used in baked goods, puddings and other processed foods.

Association CEO Barry Carpenter, who has visited BPI plants and watched the process, said critics don't seem to have the facts.

"It's one of those things. It's the aesthetics of it that just gets people's attention," Carpenter said. "And in this case, it's not even legitimate aesthetics of it. It's a perception of what it is."

Proponents of the process stress that it is both federally regulated and safe. Though Nestle said the focus on safety misses the larger point.

"I'm not arguing that that stuff is unsafe," she said, "I'm arguing that it's the lowest common denominator."

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Carol Blake  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Phone: (202) 720-3884 NOTE NEW NUMBER  
Cell: (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6)@verizon.net  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Take a look at this  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 5:43:04 PM

---

Hi,

more pink slime

I thought you'd like this:

<http://soc.li/0wxr7iS>

---

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**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) @pwcs.edu](#)  
**Bcc:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#); [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Telephone inquiry  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 11:26:45 AM

---

Good morning, Mr. Candland,

In response to your telephone call about the current controversy being referred to in the media as “pink slime.” As you might imagine, we have been receiving numerous calls. We have been making the following statement. Please let us know if you need anything else from us.

“All USDA ground beef purchases must meet the highest standards for food safety. USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe.”

Peggy Riek, Public Affairs Specialist

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service

1400 Independence Ave., SW, Rm. 1175-South Building

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202-720-7608; Fax: 202-690-0460

[Margaret.Riek@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Margaret.Riek@fsis.usda.gov)

<http://www.youtube.com/USDAFoodSafety>

<http://twitter.com/usdafoodsafety>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) @dhs.gov; (b) (6) @dhs.gov  
Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: The beef industry is fighting back against the "pink Slime" headlines  
Date: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:54:07 AM

---

Good morning,

I thought this web page might interest the two of you (and (b) (6)) after all the discussion we had last week. I am sure this will be in the headlines for some time to come. It is good to look at things from both sides. Saying this product comes from "waste" trimmings isn't really a fair description since the word waste suggests they are contaminated or inedible neither or which is true. Anyway you can judge for yourselves. This web link is sponsored by the company that makes the product so keep that in mind when you read it.

<http://pinkslimeisamyth.com/>

The week in Artesia was a fantastic experience for me. I sincerely appreciate the information that each of you and your colleagues provided to us. We do similar things as those of you in law enforcement but haven't approached our job with the same sense of personal safety, at least I haven't, that we learned last week. I hope to never have to put any of it into action but am grateful that your training has fine tuned my perception of what could be trouble.

Once again – Thank you!

If possible I am looking for some guidance related to our PT training. I remember many of the techniques we learned but I mostly remember Spencer throwing me around the room. It would be great if there were some sort of diagrams, PowerPoint presentations, or links to videos that we could refer to and refresh our memory. Anything you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

(b) (6) – I have started to pray for your dad and hope that his physical difficulties improve soon.

(b) (6)

Program Auditor

USDA, FSIS, OPEER, ICAD, Federal/State Audit Branch

Edward Zorinsky Federal Building

1616 Capitol Ave, Suite 260, Omaha, NE 68102-5980

(b) (6) (office), (b) (6) (mobile), (402) 344-5104 (Fax)

**From:** (b) (6)@meatami.com  
**To:** mphotline.fsis@usda.gov; McIntire, Richard - FSIS  
**Subject:** The Doctors Episode Today  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2012 2:32:00 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

<http://www.thedoctorstv.com/videolib/init/6191>

The Doctors has an episode today that will look at chlorine in chicken and at "pink slime" in ground beef.

I'm just watching the previews and wanted to make sure that you are aware. I suspect that it will trigger calls to the hotline.

**Janet M. Riley**  
**Senior Vice President, Public Affairs & Member Services**  
**American Meat Institute**  
**President, National Hot Dog & Sausage Council**  
**202/587-4245 (office) or (b) (6) (cell)**

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---

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---

**From:** [Michael DeBord](#)  
**To:** [ABC.WorldNews@abc.com](mailto:ABC.WorldNews@abc.com)  
**Cc:** [MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov](mailto:MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov)  
**Bcc:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**Subject:** The Pink Slime Slip  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:58:36 PM

---

Hello,

First, I'd like to thank ABC News for making us, the public, aware of this questionable practice. I can't believe the USDA's position to keep the public uninformed as to which products contain "Pink Slime" is legal. In doing so, the USDA is implying that people in the United States haven't the right to know what they're buying or eating! It seems to me they are inadvertently setting themselves up for one of the largest Class Action Law Suits in American history.

Please understand, I'm not saying there isn't a place for this product. If it's safe to eat, there are large market shares which would benefit from this economical alternative. But as an American consumer, I have the right to full content disclosure of any item I'm paying for, especially something I'm going to feed my family! And then there's the issue of Religious freedom. Certain religions forbid the consumption of organs. One could certainly argue that intestinal connective tissue is more organ than meat, and that in order to practice their religious freedoms they must know what they're buying. A tort of this magnitude could potentially list the entire U.S. population as the plaintiff..... Food for Thought?

Concerned consumer advocate,  
Michael DeBord.

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: FSIS - ODIFP/DAIG  
Cc: (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: The Saga of the Pink Slime  
Date: Saturday, February 04, 2012 11:42:59 PM

---

As some of you might recall, back in 2009 there was a lengthy article in the New York Times about the safety of defatted ammoniated beef used in hamburger production (<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/31/us/31meat.html?pagewanted=all>). Within that article was the following paragraph:

Carl S. Custer, a former U.S.D.A. microbiologist, said he and other scientists were concerned that the department had approved the treated beef for sale without obtaining independent validation of the potential safety risk. Another department microbiologist, Gerald Zirnstein, called the processed beef "pink slime" in a 2002 e-mail message to colleagues and said, **"I do not consider the stuff to be ground beef, and I consider allowing it in ground beef to be a form of fraudulent labeling."**

Flash forward to last week, when, after a media campaign of sorts by a certain celebrity chef, McDonald's has stopped using this processed beef product in its hamburgers (<http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/01/31/10282876-mcdonalds-drops-use-of-gooey-ammonia-based-pink-slime-in-hamburger-meat?chromedomain=vitals>). This article gave credit to the chef for the use of the 'pink slime' term:

Oliver's campaign began in April, when he included a segment on what he called "pink slime" on his TV show, "Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution" (see video in article).

But wait, didn't we read that the term 'pink slime' originated with a 2002 email?

Now, in following up on the chef story, I found the following detailed article in the British press, specifically, the Daily Mail (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2092127/Jamie-Oliver-Victory-McDonalds-stops-using-pink-slime-burger-recipe.html#ixzz1kbMUJ9zK>). Here's what this article says about 'pink slime':

US Department of Agriculture microbiologist Gerald Zirnstein agreed with Jamie that ammonium hydroxide agent should be banned.

He said: **'I do not consider the stuff to be ground beef and I consider allowing it in ground beef to be a form of**



## fraudulent labelling.'

Funny how the Mail makes it appear as if a) Zirnstein is a current employee and b) that his quotation is a current response. (And note that the Mail misspelled both 'Gerald' and 'labeling', but that's another matter entirely).

SWM

(b) (6), Ph.D.

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*Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to. Live Green!*

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** The Salt : NPR  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 10:29:56 AM

---

Oh good grief, public radio just this morning ran a 4 minute report on the slime in ground beef.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2012/03/16/148740168/chances-are-pink-slime-is-in-grocery-store-beef-too>

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Murphy-Jenkins, Rosalyn - FSIS](#); (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** These AskFSIS are out of control again.  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 2:27:50 PM

---

I've been doing some. PINK SLIME is hot.

Didn't bother with travel, guess I'll do it Monday. Need to figure out when I'm leaving. I'm figuring to stay M-F and M-F (mid day). I've got hotels S-Thurs both weeks. I figure I'll just work some comp time the second Friday and fly out mid afternoon. But we can talk about it.

How was your talk at NIH??

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[Submit your questions to...](#)

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com>

**Please include your name and/or company name, phone number and complete e-mail address so that we may promptly reply to your inquiries.**

FSIS, Labeling and Program Delivery Division

**Website:** <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/larc/index.htm>

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**From:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**To:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** This is one of my local papers back in NH  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:02:08 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)

---

Read this and you will get a sense for how big this really is -

## **'Pink slime' puts burger in spotlight: Reports of cheap filler sending some consumers to smaller markets**

BY JIM HADDADIN  
[jhaddadin@fosters.com](mailto:jhaddadin@fosters.com)

**Tuesday, March 13, 2012**

DOVER — Until recently, Ben Johnson had never heard the term "pink slime" used in association with ground beef.

However, that changed last week for Johnson and thousands of other consumers after a television news report highlighted a cheap filler product widely used in the beef industry.

Known as "lean, finely-textured beef," the product is derived from beef trimmings — discarded pieces of fatty flesh — that are heated, spun in a centrifuge, and treated with ammonia before being mixed back into ground beef.

On Wednesday, March 7, ABC News aired an investigation into widespread use of beef filler, which stated the low-grade beef product is present in 70 percent of ground beef sold at supermarkets.

The substance received the nickname "pink slime" in the early 2000s from a United States Department Agriculture inspector, who is now raising concerns about the safety and nutritional content of the product.

The USDA has long held that beef trimmings are safe to use in ground meat, since the product has been treated to kill harmful bacteria.

"USDA has strengthened ground beef food safety standards in recent years and only allows products into commerce that we have confidence are safe," USDA spokesperson Aaron Lavallee said in an email statement.

Still, concerns about the product have been resonating around the Seacoast, where local butchers and market owners say avoiding "pink slime" has been a boost to business in the last few days.

Johnson, general manager at Johnson's Market in New Durham, said he first learned about the news report from customers trying to track down unadulterated beef last week. The market, which supplies beef for Johnson's Restaurants in New Durham, Northwood, and North Berwick, Maine, does not use beef fillers.

"It seemed disgusting," Johnson said, "and it's rough that we've all been probably consuming it."

Chris Weston, assistant manager at Janetos Market in Dover, said he fielded between 20 and 25 phone calls about beef additives in the first day after the news report aired. Soon after, he posted a message on the store's Facebook page to assure customers Janetos doesn't use cheap beef fillers.



**Photo courtesy Beef Products, Inc. Known pejoratively as "pink slime," a cheap filler product made from low-grade beef trimmings has prompted some shoppers to visit smaller markets this week.**

[Click here to view Foster's prints for sale](#)

"There's no reason for it," he said. "We use basically all beef because people want a quality product."

Questions about the use of "pink slime" have become so common in the last few days that some butchers are affixing signs to their windows to let customers know where they stand.

The Dover Meat House, which does not use beef filler, has even provided literature for customers about its production process in response to the news report. General Manager Mark Blanchette said all meat is cut at the store and ground fresh throughout the day.

"People seem to be getting it," he said. "Our sales seem to be increasing, and I don't know why that is, or what the explanation is. I just know that we are going through a lot of it, and when that story did break on TV, we did get a lot of inquiries about it."

Some grocery store chains have been slow to respond to media inquiries about whether pink slime is ground into their beef.

That stands to benefit small businesses like Arthur's Market in Rochester, according to meat department manager Rocky Wise, who said the uncertainty is delivering some new customers to the shop this week. Beef is freshly cut each day at the store, which has been open for nearly 50 years, according to Wise.

"I think the supermarkets are going to get hurt a little bit," he said.

Among the grocery store chains that operate in the region, two — Hannaford and Shaw's — have confirmed they carry ground meat from beef-packing plants that are known to use lean, finely-textured beef. Eric Blom, a Hannaford spokesperson, said the grocery chain will "continue to monitor information about this closely."

"Across the food retail industry, a high proportion of ground beef uses LFTB and similar beef products," he wrote in an email. "Our Nature's Place all-natural brand does not contain this. We also do not add it at the store to any of the beef supplied to us."

Steve Sylven, a Shaw's spokesperson, also responded via email to say the company does not add lean, finely-textured beef to products within the store, but carries meat from suppliers that use it.

"It's important to note the use of lean finely textured beef is a long-standing practice in the industry that adheres to the strict standards approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture," he wrote. "We are currently in the process of reviewing this practice and, if customers have questions about their ground beef, they are always welcome to speak with one of our store directors."

Representatives from Walmart and DeMoulas Super Markets Inc., which operates Market Basket, did not respond to requests for information on Monday.

With grocery chains reviewing their quality standards this month, Johnson said having the spotlight on beef filler could be a benefit for smaller stores.

"I think it certainly can't hurt, especially if local sort of competition stores are dealing with this stuff," he said. "I have no idea who is or who isn't."

## **Aaron Lavallee**

Communications Coordinator, Office of Communications

U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Washington, DC 20250

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[aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov](mailto:aaron.lavallee@oc.usda.gov)

<http://www.usda.gov>

*Stay Connected with USDA:*



**From:** [Frank, Rebecca - OC](#)  
**To:** [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#)  
**Subject:** Thought this would cheer you up  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:48:02 AM

---

[The Fake CNN @TheFakeCNN](#) (122,621 followers)

Pink Slime named as Gingrich's most likely potential running mate.

Rebecca Frank  
Office of Communications  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Desk: 202.720.7408  
Cell: (b) (6)

**From:** [Riek, Peggy - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [West, Walinda - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Thoughts? - RE: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:44:36 PM

---

Rethinking this, maybe I ought to send the USDA statement – the Constituent may state he never back from USDA (don't want us to hear something like that). What do you think?

---

**From:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:08 PM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** RE: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63

Ok.

---

**From:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:07 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63

Just remembered that we were not calling him back since he did not request a call back (checked with (b) (6) last Friday to confirm this). I can close out.

---

**From:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:55 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63

Ok that I give Mr. Sukys the same response, or are we waiting on something (since Senator Gillibrand was being contacted by the Constituent)?

---

**From:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 2:16 PM  
**To:** West, Walinda - FSIS  
**Subject:** FW: Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63

Did you respond to this one? We were going to talk about this one (which I cc'd to Elizabeth and Chris as an FYI) and the Consultant one but then it came time to publish. I can send the response if you did not handle then.

I saw you responded to Mr. Fikes last Friday.

---

**From:** FootPrints CPAO Call Tracker - FSIS [mailto:FootPrints@fsis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:06 AM  
**To:** Riek, Peggy - FSIS  
**Subject:** Miscellaneous ISSUE=1628 PROJ=63

When replying, type your text above this line.

---

A call has been entered into the CPAO Call Tracker and has been assigned to [Primary Constituent Group](#).

**Call Information**

**Ticket Number:** 1628

**Subject of Call:** [Miscellaneous](#)

**Secondary Subject:**

**Call Date:** 03/08/2012 7:00 PM

**Contact Name:** Glenn Sukys

**Caller Type:** [Primary Constituent](#)

**Contact Phone Number:** (b) (6)

**Cell Phone Number:**

**Alt. Phone Number:**

**Contact Email Address:** (b) (6)@q.com

**Employer/Organization:** consumer

**Call Info:** Entered on 2012-03-09 at 09:06:26 by Nichele Derrickson :

[Message was retrieved from voicemail.](#)

[Constituent is very concerned about the "pink slime" issues that was reported by ABC news on Wednesday and Thursday this week. He would like USDA to reverse any permission to use "pink slime" in any product. Glenn mentioned he is currently reaching out to Senator Kristen Gillibrand as well.](#)

**Notes:** [Entered on 03/09/2012 at 09:06:25 EST \(GMT-0500\) by Nichele Derrickson:](#)  
[ no Notes entered ]

More information about the call may be available in the ticket. ♦ Please open the ticket to see more information.

Please return this call back as soon as possible. ♦ Update ticket **1628** with the information that was provided, the date the call was returned, and then close the ticket.

[Click here to view Call Log in Browser](#)



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Thurston Foods  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:24:05 PM

---

Dr (b) (6) Thurston Foods is having lots of negative feedback from all their customers regarding the "Pink Slime" issues that have been in the media.

Would it be feasible for me to write a letter from the USDA stating that they do not use pink slime in their ground beef product which would be supported by their letter of guarantee from the supplier and daily observations of their grinding operation.

They deliver to the school systems here in Connecticut and many other institutions that are looking for something in writing regarding this.

If we were to have a letter from their one and only supplier which is a New Zealand company that states they do not use "Pink Slime" and or any other fillers in their frozen whole muscle beef would be able to provide them with such a document.

Thank-you for your help in this matter.

(b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** today  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 7:51:54 AM

---

*Oh, ABC National News was the headline right at 06:30 p.m. "Pink Slime" I am surprised there wasn't a FSIS Notice issued this morning on it already. Good hockey game-was home a few minutes past ten p.m. Fifteen large market swine here at Simon's Meats today. Have a Good day!*

---

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:07 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** today

Afternoon Inspector,

Here at Warsaw, finished with 8 swine and 3 beef. I am able to get onto PHIS in the office and have completed my tasks for the day. Had (b) (6) and Dr. (b) (6) here today so it was a little tight in the office. I am trying to keep tabs on the (b) (6) situation but no reception in the office. Tyler Myers suspended for 3 games as I'm sure you already heard. He defiantly hit the guy from behind but 3 games and he had no prior issues? I guess you have to be a goon or dirty player most of the time then you get a warning over the phone if you deliver a cheap shot. :-0

**From:** [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Engeljohn, Daniel - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** TPs for review  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 10:49:24 AM  
**Attachments:** [Talking Points on New Labeling Option for Lean Finely Textured Beef.docx](#)

---

Please review when you have a moment. Thanks!

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Trivia on "Pink Slime"  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:59:35 AM

---

Who first called it 'Pink Slime'?

Microbiologist, Gerald Zirnstein, called the processed beef "pink slime" in 2002.

Remember this article in the NY Times in 2009?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/31/us/31meat.html?pagewanted=all>

From: (b) (6) - FSIS  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; Van Diane - FSIS;  
(b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: USDA Affirms Safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef Product for Consumers  
Date: Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:40:54 AM

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[http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&edeployment\\_action=retrievecontent](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/03/0094.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&edeployment_action=retrievecontent)

This press release is good but, why can't USDA just say that critics have sensationalized lean finely textured beef by calling it "pink slime" and referring to it as a filler or additive?

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Technical Information Specialist

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**From:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** usda-buys-7-million-pounds-of-pink-slime-for-school-lunches  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 7:54:26 AM  
**Attachments:** [usda-buys-7-million-pounds-of-pink-slime-for-school-lunches.htm](#)

---

Had any good school lunches lately?

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Van, Diane - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** W@H 3-9-12  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:58:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [W@H 3-9-12.doc](#)

---

Diane, sending this one early, as it may be the only 1 for me this month.

Hope you had a good weekend.

(b) (6)

-----

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** [Ransom, Gerri - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Walk, etc.  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:58:19 PM

---

Took a walk to the "Hill" and passed the Supreme Court. As I headed back a tourist said something about "John or Bob Kerry." I turned around and sure enough, John Kerry was behind me.

It seems that Carl may be one of the part in the pink slime affair. He was shown in one of the news video with Gerald Z.

It is far too quiet on your floor. Is everyone asleep or was it nap time?

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Patriots Plaza III, 8-161B

355 E Street SW

Washington, DC 20024-3221

(b) (6)



**From:** [Jarvis, Michael - AMS](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\) - AMS](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - AMS](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - AMS](#); [\(b\) \(6\) - AMS](#)  
**Cc:** [Lavallee, Aaron - OC](#); [Rowe, Courtney - OC](#); [Brownlee, Jim - OC](#); [Mabry, Brian - FSIS](#); [Fillpot, Dirk - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** Washington post explains beef this morning  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:10:49 PM

---

Beef — er, pink slime — it's what's for school lunch. And I'm okay with it.  
By Alexandra Petri

Jamie Oliver, seen without slime. (Mitch Haddad - ABC) "Pink Slime Is In Your Child's School Lunch. Details at 11."

It's the sort of headline that leaves you stuck in front of the television for three hours, gripping the remote in panic and terror.

What is "pink slime"? Why is the USDA purchasing 7 million pounds of it for school lunches?

None of the other names for the substance do much for it either. "Soylent Pink" was floated at one point. Even its official title "Lean Beef Trimmings," is little better. Its manufacturer is the vaguely named Beef Products Incorporated (BPI), which could hardly be a less fortunate name. "We Do Things With Beef," the name says. "Move along, there is nothing more to see."

Pink slime is the meat that the butchers rejected, basically. It's the connective tissue and other leavings, usually outer areas of the carcass that have more opportunities to get exposed to bacteria — what a 2003 Beef Products, Inc.-financed study referred to as "larger microbiological populations." If microbes were hipsters, this would be Williamsburg. It was once shipped off to be used in oil and dog foods, until an entrepreneur thought that it might be salvageable for human consumption.

What gives "pink slime" its distinctive hue and texture is the process of treating it with ammonia. The usual alkalinity of beef is somewhere around a 6, which is about the middle of the acidic-to-not-particularly-acidic scale. In order to kill *E. coli* — a bacteria commonly found in meat, not to be confused with *e. e. coli*, a bacteria commonly found in erratically punctuated poetry\* — which thrives at higher acidities, some method of increasing the alkalinity of the beef is necessary.

\* This is weak, but I defy you to come up with a better joke about beef alkalinity.

So Beef Products Incorporated gases the beef product with ammonia.

Exactly how high the alkalinity of the Beef-ish Product is, as of 2009, remained in question. Some batches were in the neighborhood of 9.5, which is high enough that cooks to whom the beef was shipped for making meatloaf for convicts complained, thinking it had been contaminated. Some batches were in the neighborhood of 7.75, which is, well, not high enough and provokes complaints from the New York Times. Day by day, beef batch by beef batch, Beef Products Incorporated tries to strike some sort of balance between safety and beef that smells like you found it under your sink with the cleaning products.

Lately, something of an outcry began. McDonalds no longer uses the "pink slime" in its burgers. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver demonstrated an imaginative version of the Lean Beef Trimmings production process to a disturbed-looking group of schoolchildren and their parents, and they all yelled against it.

But the USDA is still ordering 7 million pounds of it for school lunches. Why?

Well, it's cheap.

Incorporate the treated meat, and you shave 3 cents off the cost of making a pound of ground beef. That's nothing to sneeze at, and not just in the sense that you shouldn't be sneezing around ground beef in the first place.

When it comes to food, that's always the trade-off. Feed more people, less expensively? Or pay more for meat that hasn't had the chance to get up-close-and-personal with ammonia? On the one extreme are the people who want us to eat only Locally Grown Fully Organic Marvel Foods. Never mind that this is also what they did during the medieval era, when feudalism was the order of the day and no one had invented refrigeration. It's better for you, or something. On the other hand are people like me, who won't eat chicken unless you hand me an affidavit saying its life was unpleasant, it lived in a cramped and miserable cage, and that it probably was frozen for months in a strange warehouse and pumped full of chemicals. I like to be reminded of progress. Also, it's cheaper.

Most people fall somewhere in the middle. And policy around "Pink Slime" tries to take that into account.

Current regulations allow you to make Beefish Product up to 15 percent of your hamburger, with no labeling about the ammonia (it's a "processing agent," not an ingredient. This makes sense — if it were labeled as an ingredient, no matter how safe it was, you probably wouldn't buy it.)

For every celebrity chef darting into your school to insinuate that the food there should be greener and less pinkish, there's a cost.

Sure, the videos from BPI weren't exactly reassuring. "When most people think of ammonia, they probably think of household cleaners," the video noted. "But there is so much more to ammonia than you may know. . . . It's a natural component of all plants and animals!" It's in chickens! It's in people shopping at the Banana Republic! It's in moose, those majestic and natural beasts! I am not making this up.

Foodies have already made our life difficult enough. They force us to differentiate between locally grown, organically nourished chickens and their factory cousins. They oblige us to go to farmers' markets and hunt down exotic squashes. They insist that if you can't eat locally grown kale, you should feel somehow ashamed.

But if we can prove the slime is safe and it makes more food available more cheaply to more people, I'm not inclined to stand in its way, whether or not it's technically meat. Perhaps this also explains my dating life. I'd be the first to turn in the beef if it contained any objectionable bacteria. Well, not the first. That's probably someone at the beef testing area.

After all, the inclusion of an eerie, lumpy substance that only superficially resembles meat is a long tradition of school lunches. It builds character. And in a taste test, some students even preferred the slime mixture. Just rename it, and we'll be fine.

Michael T. Jarvis  
Director  
Public Affairs  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
USDA  
202-690-3816

From: [FSIS Webmaster](#)  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: web mail report for February 2012  
Date: Friday, March 09, 2012 8:51:44 AM

---

Hello everyone. Here is the FSIS web mail report for February 2012:

FSIS programs and inspection:	17
General food safety questions:	10
Publications:	5
Complaints:	3
Labeling issues:	8
Import/Export issues, bringing food into the US:	13
Employment/ Career/jobs with FSIS:	2
Website issues:	12
Other USDA agencies:	2
FDA/other government agencies:	0
Health Department:	2
Pink slime:	1
Genetically modified foods:	2
Recalls:	1

Total: 78

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

Food Safety Education Staff

Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

phone: (b) (6)

fax: (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](https://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; Van, Diane - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** web mail report for January 2012  
**Date:** Friday, February 03, 2012 4:08:06 PM

---

Hi everyone.

For the month of January 2012 there were 221 inquiries to the MPHotline web mail box.

The top topics were:

1. Food product complaints: 38
2. Safe storage (freezing, refrigerating, shelf stable): 37
3. FSIS inspection issues: 27
4. Safe food handling, including the 2 hour rule and other mishaps: 22
5. Import/export inquiries, including bringing food into the U.S.: 18
6. Lego League: 1
7. Halal inspection 2
8. Meat glue: 1
9. Pink slime: 1

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) M.S.

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Food Safety Education Staff

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fax: (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

From: [FSIS Webmaster](#)  
To: (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
Subject: web mail report for January 2012  
Date: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 3:03:03 PM

---

Hello everyone. Here is the FSIS web mail report for January 2012:

FSIS programs and inspection:	20
General food safety questions:	10
Publications:	3
Labeling issues:	6
Import/Export issues, bringing food into the US:	6
Employment/ Career/jobs with FSIS:	3
Website issues:	13
Other USDA agencies:	0
FDA/other government agencies:	0
Health Department:	2
Horse slaughter:	1
Pink slime:	1
Genetically modified foods:	1
Halal slaughter:	1

Total: 67

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

Food Safety Education Staff

Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

phone: (b) (6)

fax: (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](https://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** week ending 3-24-12  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 10:36:18 AM

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**SIGNIFICANT FOIA** – Received on March 19, 2012, from Linda Larsen (Food Poisoning Bulletin, Minneapolis, Minnesota) requesting a copy of documents regarding nutrition information, including protein content, fat content, and nutrient content for finely textured beef product, known as “pink slime”, from March 18, 2010 to March 18, 2012.

(b) (6)

Management Analyst

USDA/FSIS/FOIA

Washington, DC 20250

Office: (b) (6)

**Be Food Safe:** **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly



**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Weekly FOIA Report - week ending March 23, 2012  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012 12:22:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [3-23-12 Weekly FOIA Report.docx](#)

---

(b) (6)

Management Analyst

USDA/FSIS/FOIA

Washington, DC 20250

Office: (b) (6)

Be Food Safe: **CLEAN:** Wash Hands and Surfaces Often **SEPARATE:** Separate Raw Meats from Other Foods

**COOK:** Cook To The Right Temperature **CHILL:** Refrigerate Food Promptly

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Cc:** Gallegos, Anna - FSIS  
**Subject:** Weekly report 3/30/12  
**Date:** Friday, March 30, 2012 12:14:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [EL33012.pdf](#)  
[RR32812.pdf](#)  
[PF33012.pdf](#)  
[FW Off-site cleaning \(Pete Duryea\) Incident 120328-000024.msg.msg](#)  
[FW cotton gloves Incident 120328-000051.msg.msg](#)  
[FW Pink Slime Information.msg.msg](#)  
[RE Santa Fe Environmental Health.msg.msg](#)

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MOI's:

Policy:

Information:

General: It's been an ordeal this week as I have been looking for answers to plant questions but I have managed it well.

I have been in contact with the relief inspector (b) (6) and updated him on the on-goings of my establishments as he will be here as of next week.

34403 Red rock has been on edge and only processed 3 days this week, there were more issue's with employees but this time on a production level not a regulatory issue. It's still tense there so I have explained to (b) (6) some of the recent events.

(b) (4).  
Which they feel better suits the process. They have had many questions and I have tried to be professional and forth coming, but in the end to change a process doesn't happen at my level. I have explained that to them as well as protocol of the decision making process.

To stream line the question/answer I have helped the owner Curtis Cox set up an account with ask FSIS and explained that even if he gets the answer he wants, it doesn't mean he can just do it without any proof of his process, or our approval.

Other: I have also turned in an issue of some to concern with state inspection who has come to me asking for help with an issue. I referred them to the CSO (b) (6) over this issue.

All and all I try to maintain our image to the public and I feel I have some success.

[REDACTED] k I hope you all [REDACTED] weekend and that if you bought a  
[REDACTED] and share😊! Be safe.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [FSIS Webmaster](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) - [FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** weekly report  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 4:53:34 PM

---

Hi (b) (6)

For the week of March 11 there were 30 inquiries to the FSIS web mail box.

Of these, 5 were about pink slime.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

Food Safety Education Staff

Food Safety and Inspection Service

phone: (b) (6)

fax: (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** [Meat and Poultry Hotline](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS; (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** weekly report  
**Date:** Monday, March 19, 2012 6:26:24 PM

---

Hi (b) (6)

For the week of March 11 there were 72 inquiries to the MPhotline web mail box.

Of those, 12 were about pink slime.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b) (6) M.S.

Technical Information Specialist

Food Safety Education Staff

Food Safety and Inspection Service

phone: (b) (6)

fax: (b) (6)

(b) (6) [fsis.usda.gov](http://fsis.usda.gov)

**From:** (b) (6) @verizon.net  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Whats uo with this  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 10:07:24 PM

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McDonald's and Taco Bell have banned it, but now the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is buying 7 million pounds of beef containing ammonium hydroxide-treated ground connective tissue and meat scraps and serving it up to America's school kids. If you thought cafeteria food was gross before....

Related: [What You Need to Know About the New Meat and Poultry Labels](#)

According to [TheDaily.com](#), the term "pink slime" was coined by microbiologist Gerald Zirnstein, formerly of the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service. He first saw it being mixed into burger meat when he was touring a Beef Products Inc (BPI) facility in 2002 after an outbreak of salmonella. "Scientists in D.C. were pressured to approve this stuff with minimal safety approval," Zirnstein told The Daily.

"Pink slime," which is officially called "Lean Beef Trimmings," is banned for human consumption in the United Kingdom. It is commonly used in dog and chicken food. Celebrity chef and safe food advocate Jamie Oliver featured the substance and called for its ban on the April 12, 2011 episode of [Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution](#), which may have influenced McDonald's to stop using beef patties containing the filler.

Reportedly, Zirnstein and his colleague Carl Custer studied the substance and classified it as a "high risk product." Custer, who worked at the Food Safety Inspection service for 35 years, says, "We looked at the product and we objected to it because it used connective tissues instead of muscle. It was simply not nutritionally equivalent [to ground beef]. My main objection was that it was not meat."

Another issue is the ammonium hydroxide, a chemical that is used to kill pathogens such as [E. coli](#). The [FDA considers it safe for human consumption](#) but a 2009 expose by the [New York Times](#) questioned its safety and efficacy. Some food advocates are asking for meat containing "pink slime" to be labeled. It's used in about 70% of ground beef in the US. "We don't know which districts are receiving what meat, and this meat isn't labeled to show pink slime. They don't have to under federal law," Bettina Siegal, a writer and mother of two who created [TheLunchTray.com](#) told [NBC](#). Siegal has started [a petition](#) to demand the USDA stop using the product in the National School Lunch Program.

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Bcc:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Who sells meat with pink slime? Here's the list - Hot Topics - timesunion.com - Albany NY  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:57:52 PM

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Open this link for information about and stores that sell pink slime in ground beef.  
Yuk!

<http://blog.timesunion.com/hottopics/who-sells-meat-with-pink-slime-heres-the-list/8877/>

From: (b) (6) - AMS  
To: (b) (6)  
Subject: Will BPI's Plant Closures Affect America's Ground Beef?  
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:41:56 AM

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"Pink Slime" is a well discussed topic recently in terms of food safety. The article, appeared today in "Food Safety News," might provide some insight to the topic.

(b) (6), PhD  
USDA – AMS – S&T  
Technical Services  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6) @usda.gov

## Will BPI's Plant Closures Affect America's Ground Beef?

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/how-will-bpis-plant-closures-affect-americas-beef/>  
by [James Andrews](#) | Mar 27, 2012

Following Monday's announcement by Beef Products Inc. that the company would suspend operations at three of the four facilities that produce lean finely textured beef (LFTB), many wonder what lasting impact major supermarkets and restaurant chains will have as they stop buying the product publicly derided as "pink slime" or "soylent pink."

Reports indicate that prior to the mass rejection of LFTB by big-name buyers such as McDonald's, Burger King and Safeway, the lean beef product supplemented approximately 70 percent of the ground beef eaten in America. That adds up to a lot of beef that will need to be replaced by other means, all of which are more expensive and wasteful, said Gary Acuff, Ph.D., director of the Center for Food Safety at Texas A&M University.

According to estimates Acuff has read, replacing the amount of beef salvaged from carcasses by Beef Products Inc. (BPI) will require an additional 1.5 million cows raised by industrial agriculture. BPI is estimated to retrieve 10 to 15 pounds worth of lean beef from each carcass processed in its facilities.

Those losses could lead to a rise in beef imports, Acuff said, though he was certain that however Americans compensated for the drop in production, the price of beef is sure to rise. Responding to rising prices, consumers might simply choose to buy chicken or pork more often.

Blaming the LFTB backlash on a tsunami of public misinformation spearheaded by ABC News and The Daily, Acuff said that one of the greatest tragedies of the plant shutdown was that it would result in wasting real, nutritious meat that only [BPI's patented technology](#) could retrieve from fat trimmings economically.



"It's our responsibility to be good stewards of the food we produce, especially when we have to take the life of an animal to do so, and we figured out a good way to get that extra meat out of the animal that would otherwise get thrown away," Acuff told **Food Safety News**. "People are asking, 'Why wasn't it labeled when it's in my beef?' Well, because it *is* beef."

The question of whether the U.S. beef supply will be any less safe without LFTB is more difficult to answer. No studies have definitively concluded that the ammonium hydroxide that kills pathogens in LFTB goes on to effectively kill microorganisms in ground beef when LFTB is mixed in.

But it's difficult to argue with BPI's food safety record. Since the company started in 1981, its products have not been definitely linked to a foodborne illness or outbreak. However, according to the [2009 New York Times article](#), BPI's product was one of four suppliers to a 2007 Cargill E. coli O157:H7 outbreak. Cargill's outbreak garnered the [New York Times a Pulitzer Prize](#) for its portrayal of Stephanie Smith, the most seriously injured victim.

BPI now tests for Salmonella, E. coli O157:H7 and the "Big Six" strains of harmful E. coli, and unlike some others in the meat industry, holds the meat until tests results are in. Products aren't put on the market if contamination is detected.

If nothing else, adding LFTB to ground beef likely dilutes the concentration of whatever pathogens exist in the meat.

Ground beef "is an inherently unsafe food," Acuff said, "but adding LFTB would never make it less safe."

Some food scientists have decried what they call misinformation spread by media and the former U.S. Department of Agriculture microbiologist who first coined the phrase "pink slime."

In a statement dated March 23, Iowa State University agriculture professor Joseph Sebranek, Ph.D., wrote that his 1996 study on LFTB in the Journal of Food Sciences had been misconstrued by some media reports.

While Sebranek's study did not compare nutritional differences between ground beef with and without LFTB, some media reports have claimed that LFTB degrades the meat to which it's added.

"Our research is potentially being misinterpreted by some in the media as suggesting that LFTB has a deleterious effect on the nutritional quality of ground beef," Sebranek wrote. "Nothing in our study or what we know about collagen more broadly should lead one to that conclusion."

Other LFTB critics cited concerns over the ammonium hydroxide used to treat the beef, but Acuff pointed out that not only do humans naturally produce ammonium in their bodies, ammonium hydroxide can be found in a number of other foods, such as baked goods, cheeses and chocolate.

"It disturbs me that the public will listen to the media over someone who does science and

research in the area," Acuff said. "A scientist doesn't stand a chance against a celebrity news personality, as sad as that is."

Frustrated by the tone and angle of the mainstream media's "pink slime" coverage, Acuff wrote a critical commentary along with his colleague, Texas A&M animal science professor H. Russell Cross, Ph.D., (who approved the use of LFTB when he was Administrator of the USDA's Food Safety) wrote a critical commentary. They titled it "[Ignorance, pink slime and Sarah Palin?](#)" to illustrate how people view contentious issues depending on where they get their news.

"Sarah Palin is stupid, Al Gore is an environmental wing nut, Barack Obama is a socialist, you are eating pink slime," they wrote, rattling off a series of false characterizations perpetuated by various media organizations, depending on their slant.

"We need to step up and be the clear-thinking, informed source of information -- before it is too late," they went on, calling on science-minded individuals in the food industry to speak up and defend the science behind LFTB.

"We are sick and tired of the news media hijacking the truth, minimizing science, frightening consumers and creating a false crisis, just to boost their ratings," they wrote. "Lean Fine-Textured Beef is not unsafe, deceptive or pet food."

Acuff said that while the industry has a responsibility to produce safe, quality products, consumers also have a responsibility to keep informed and understand the difficulties in keeping the food supply both safe and affordable.

"It's a predicament, isn't it? We don't want the LFTB stuff. We don't want irradiation. We don't want anything like that in our food, but we want it to be safe," he said. "There seems to be this feeling among the public that somebody is always trying to get something over on them, and BPI just happened to get caught this time. Nobody wants to do that. BPI wasn't hiding anything -- they were trying to make a quality product. If people had been better informed, this might not have gone south so quickly."

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**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** WR 03-11-2012 & McVeda  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2012 4:58:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [03-11-12.xlsx](#)

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Hi Boss, (b) (6) called and asked me if he could use the mobile slaughter unit to slaughter some chickens for family and friends, without me having to come over and inspect the unit. I said I thought it was alright. Then he asked about slaughter for the Farmers Market, and I told him I would have to inspect the unit and he would have to post the nutritional labeling poster also. Did I give him correct info. Thanks, (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Mt. Meat & Poultry Inspector

Great Falls,Mt 59404

**From:** [Blake, Carol - FSIS](#)  
**To:** [Almanza, Al - FSIS](#)  
**Subject:** WSJ ad and Meatingplace story  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 4:50:23 PM

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Here's a link to the WSJ ad: <http://www.meatami.com/ht/a/GetDocumentAction/i/76661>.  
The story from Meatingplace is below.

## BPI's Eldon Roth speaks out

By [Lisa M. Keefe](#) on 3/26/2012

Beef Products Inc. CEO Eldon Roth laid his thoughts out on the lean finely textured beef (LFTB) controversy in a [full-page ad in Friday's Wall Street Journal](#).

Alongside a reprint of a op-ed written by Nancy Donley, founder and president of STOP Foodborne Illness, in which she praises BPI's products and condemns critics who call it "pink slime," Roth penned an open letter titled, "'Pink slime' libel to cost this country jobs."

"Before last summer, we could not have imagined the personal, professional, financial and spiritual impact of the campaign of lies and deceit that have been waged against our company and the lean beef we produce," Roth wrote. "But over the last several weeks, that campaign has been joined by entertainment media, tabloid journalists, so-called national news — and all to what end? The clear goal expressed by the campaign organizer — put BPI out of business."

Roth commented further on the toll the coverage has had on the company, and noted the support that LFTB has gotten from scientists, and the fact that BPI's products have never been associated with a foodborne illness.

"As the founder of the company, I can personally guarantee that in our 30-year history, we have never produced 'pink slime,'" he said in closing.

Reached over the weekend, BPI spokesman Rich Jochum told **Meatingplace**, "The point we were trying to make was that the libelous media attacks could have significant consequences beyond just harassing retail grocery stores into discontinuing use of LFTB."

As retailers have announced their intention to stop carrying ground beef with LFTB, both BPI and Cargill, the industry's other supplier of LFTB, have been hit by the loss of business.

For more information on the LFTB controversy, see [Meatingplace's LFTB News Center](#).

**From:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** Yo Man.  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 9:16:02 AM

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That is one cool tractor. I wished I had one. I could see myself putting down the field warring bib overhauls and a straw hat. Does that one belong to the McMarely Farm?

The solar storms were not as bad as they said they might be. However they did say it may not be over yet. Stay tuned. I like Kevin's idea of storm chasing. Who knows maybe someday I may give it a try. I took a basic course in meteorology once so I know quite a bit about it. If I do storm chasing I would need a driver as I hear there is a lot of beer drinking done in that endeavor.

I never heard of pink slime before. At least they sterilize it before they give it to the kids. I am with usda on this one. What you do not know will not hurt you. So just eat your hamburger and do not ask any questions.

My wife is always complaining about grizzle in her ground beef. I just tell her not to chew her food sooo much. Just swallow it like a man. She is such a cry baby.

If you see Mr. McMarely tell him I say hello. Let him know I trimmed my blue berries and apple trees this week. I will have to fertilize the asparagus before long. I am sure he is getting busy. You should go over and give him a hand. I remember once during Easter vacation an apple orchard hired a bunch of kids to drag off limbs they had trimmed. We made some money that week.

Got to go. I am a busy man. Just because I am retiring I am not going to slack off. I am going to be a trooper right up to the end. Over and out. (b) (6)

**From:** [Change.org](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) - FSIS  
**Subject:** You have received a message about "Tell USDA to STOP Using Pink Slime in School Food!"  
**Date:** Monday, March 12, 2012 8:53:41 AM

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Dear (b) (6)

Thanks for signing the petition, "Tell USDA to STOP Using Pink Slime in School Food!".

Winning this campaign is now in your hands. We need to reach out to as many friends as we can to grow this campaign and win.

Thanks for your support,

The Change.org Team

**Take the next step: Ask your friends to sign**

**SHARE THIS PETITION**

**Don't just be a signer — be an organizer. Turn your signature into hundreds more by asking your friends to sign. Then they'll ask their friends. That's how we win.**