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January 2, 2024

Subject: Trim (Pathogen) Testing for Ground Beef

To Whom It May Concern:

National Beef Packing Co. LLC, Est. 208A, and Est. 262, have implemented a prescreening test protocol for all beef trimmings used in the production of its raw ground beef. This protocol meets the USDA FSIS robust testing method and requires that all trimmings generated for use in internal ground beef production be:

- A. Lotted (in either 1 combo lots, or more than one combo up to a maximum of 5 combos per lot)
- B. Sampled
  - a. Micro Tally Cloth sampling or
  - b. taking N=60 surface incision pieces per lot for a target of a min. 375gm final sample
- C. Tested for E. coli O157:H7 (PCR DNA testing using Hygiena Bax or BioCotrol GDS PCR).

All trim used in National Beef ground beef production must be sampled, tested and found to be negative for E. coli O157:H7. All combos represented by a sample (including all combos associated with the lot) found to be presumptive positive with PCR testing (or those that have not been confirmed negative), will be not be used in our process: they will be handled in a manner consistent with FSIS regulations.

Sincerely,

Brenden McCullough  
V.P. Technical Services  
National Beef Packing Co. LLC