



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

EHS Circular Letter #2010-46

To: Local Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians
Certified Food Inspectors

From: Tracey Weeks, MS, RS; Food Protection Program

Date: July 9, 2010

Subject: **Recall of Bison Meat Products Due to *E. coli* O157:H7**

The United States Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has announced that Rocky Mountain Natural Meats, a Henderson, Colo. establishment, is recalling approximately 66,776 pounds of ground and tenderized steak bison products that may be contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7. USDA has provided information that the recalled product was distributed to the following Connecticut stores:

- Price Chopper's
- Stop & Shop
- Wakefern (Shoprite)
- Whole Foods

The affected products include, but are not limited to the following:

- 16-ounce packages of "GREAT RANGE BRAND ALL NATURAL GROUND BISON." These products have a "sell or freeze by" date of June 21, June 22 or June 24, 2010.
- 16-ounce packages of "NATURE'S RANCHER GROUND BUFFALO." These products have a "sell or freeze by" date of June 22, 2010.
- 16-ounce packages of "THE BUFFALO GUYS ALL NATURAL GROUND BUFFALO 90% LEAN." These products have a lot number of 0147.
- 12-ounce packages of "GREAT RANGE BRAND ALL NATURAL BISON STEAK MEDALLIONS." These products have a "sell or freeze by" date of June 23 and June 24, 2010.
- 12-ounce packages of "GREAT RANGE BRAND ALL NATURAL BISON SIRLOIN STEAKS." These products have a "sell or freeze by" date of June 20, June 23 and June 24, 2010.
- 15-pound boxes of "ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURAL MEATS, INC. BISON 10 OZ SIRLOIN STEAK." These products went to restaurants and bear a Julian Code of 0141.
- Various weight boxes of "BISON B TRIM." These products bear a production date of May 21, 2010 and a Julian Code of 14110. The boxes also state "KEEP REFRIGERATED." All lots and production dates for the above-listed products are subject to this public health alert.

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Two cases of *E. coli* O157:H7 associated with the recalled product have been identified in Connecticut to date. Other cases have been identified in Colorado and New York. *E. coli* O157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacterium that can cause bloody diarrhea, dehydration, and in the most severe cases, kidney failure. The very young, seniors and persons with weak immune systems are the most susceptible to foodborne illness. You are urged to share the above information with the retail and food service establishments in your jurisdiction that are likely to sell or use the recalled products. Although information provided to date does not indicate distribution to restaurants, it is possible that some restaurants may have purchased the recalled product directly from a supermarket. As always, follow-up with establishments that serve highly susceptible populations especially in schools, day care, health care, elderly feeding programs, etc., should be prioritized.

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

The USDA FSIS announcement can be viewed at:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Recall 043 2010 Release/index.asp>

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, MS, MPH, Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH
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