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Dear Valued Customer:

Elkhorn Valley Packing performs E. Coli O157:H7 and Non-O157 STEC testing on all products intended for raw-ground processing. The procedure is as follows:

The combos/pallets are in lots of a maximum of five and a minimum of one. If the sample is being drawn by the n-60 method then each lot will have 60 pieces of trim out of the sample that are approximately 4 inches long, 1 inch wide and 1/8 inch thick. The slices come from the original surface of the carcass. The samples will weigh no less than 375 grams. If a sample is being pulled as an N-60plus sample, then the head of the drill will be filled sampling all 4 corners of the combo and the middle of the combo. The head of the drill is then emptied into a sterile bag. The combos/pallets/boxes that are in a lot will have the trim collected into one sample bag. The lot number will be written on the sample bag that matches the lot number from the combo/pallet/boxes. The lot number will then be written on the sample bag that matches the lot number from the combo/pallet/boxes and will be written on one side of the combo/pallets/boxes. When all samples are complete, the samples will be sent to IEH Laboratories in Wellington, Kansas. This lab analyzes 100% of the sample.

Any product that is shipped from Elkhorn Valley Packing that has not been tested and received a negative result E. Coli O157 H:7 and Non-O157 STEC's is to be assumed to be an intact product not for grind or will be given a full cooking lethality step.

When matching the COA to the combo/boxes, the receiving date of the sample is the production date. Combos will be matched by the product (50/50) and the weight of the combo (2000). A neon sticker will be placed on alternating sides of the combo to coordinate the combo with the sample using the julian date (001A).

Sampled boxes can be matched using the receiving date of the sample is the production date of the sample. Boxes will have a julian date that matches the boxes to the sample (001A). The number of the box made is in the bottom right hand corner of the label. 1-50 is the first sample taken for the particular code and would be the first lot of boxes in conjunction with the COA. 51-100 is the 2nd lot in conjunction with the COA, and continues thru the day.

Should you have any questions please contact me at the above number.

Respectfully,

Troy Bennington
HACCP Coordinator
Elkhorn Valley Packing