

Agricultural Marketing Service, Poultry Programs
Approved Laboratory Program for Testing Frozen Cooked Diced Chicken

In response to requests by suppliers of frozen cooked diced chicken, the Agricultural Marketing Service, Poultry Programs has expanded the list of laboratories approved to conduct microbiological testing of frozen cooked diced chicken to include commercial laboratories. The four commercial laboratories that have been approved are listed below.

DonLevy laboratories
11165 Delaware Parkway
Crown Point, IN 56307
Telephone: (219) 226-0001

Silliker Laboratories
11585 K-Tel Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55343
Telephone: (706) 878-6458

Food Safety Net Services
221 W Rhapsody Street
San Antonio, TX 78216
Telephone: (817) 228-9795

Warren Analytical Laboratories
650 "O" Street
Greeley, CO 80631
Telephone: (970) 475-0253

Along with the one Federal laboratory and two State laboratories, the addition of these four commercial laboratories expands the cadre of laboratories approved to conduct microbiological testing of cooked diced chicken to seven.

Frozen cooked diced chicken is purchased through competitive bids contracts. Due to the nature of the product, the purchase specifications have strict microbial requirements for standard plate count, coliform, generic *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), Coagulase-positive *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*), *Salmonella*, and *Listeria monocytogenes*. *Salmonella* and *Listeria monocytogenes* are tested on the basis of presence-only, and the other microbes are tested on the basis of established quantification levels for each microbe. To verify compliance with the specification requirements, samples of the product are collected after production and submitted for laboratory analyses at approved laboratories.