



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0253 – Room 2610-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0253

December 2003

**NOTICE TO THE TRADE
USDA GROUND BEEF SUPPLIERS**

The purpose of this notice is to inform U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) ground beef suppliers that the Agricultural Marketing Service, Science and Technology Program’s laboratory in Gastonia, N.C., holiday schedule for submission of ground beef samples and microbial analysis for USDA contracts. The schedule is as follows:

Date	Samples Received	Microbial Analysis Started
12/22/03	YES	12/29/03
12/23/03	YES	12/29/03
12/24/03	YES	12/29/03
12/25/03	NO	N/A
12/26/03	NO	N/A
12/27/03	NO	N/A
12/28/03	NO	N/A

The laboratory will resume their normal business schedule on December 29, 2003.

If questions arise or further information is needed on the laboratory hours, please contact me on (202) 720-2650.

/s/Duane Williams (12/18/03)

Duane Williams
Contracting Officer
Livestock and Seed Program