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Title: Collection, Packaging and Shipping of Beef Products		
Revision: New	Replaces: N/A	Effective: 06/25/01

**1. Purpose:**

To provide standard procedures for the collection, packaging, and shipping of beef products for the USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Pesticide Data Program (PDP).

**2. Scope:**

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) shall be followed by all Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) personnel acting as PDP sample collectors during the entire sample collection process as required by PDP.

**3. Outline of Procedures:**

- 6.1 Collection of Beef Samples
- 6.2 Unified Sampling Form (USF)
- 6.3 Packaging of Beef Samples
- 6.4 Shipping of Beef Samples

**4. References:**

- Memorandum of Understanding Between AMS and FSIS, Beef Residue Testing Program, May 25, 2001
- Meeting Between AMS and FSIS, April 27, 2001
- Memorandum, Martha Lamont, PDP Technical Director, to Ed Zager, Chief, EPA/HED, August 24, 2000
- USDA/AMS, USDA/OPMP, EPA Planning Meeting, August 23, 2000
- Attachment A (Contact List of Persons Participating in Beef Program)
- Attachment B (Beef Sample Collection Dates)
- Memorandum, Meat, Poultry, and Egg Testing Program, William Franks, December 16, 1999
- USDA, FSIS Directive 10,210.1 Unified Sampling Form, October 15, 1997

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## 5. **Summary:**

The beef sample collection procedures were developed in consultation with USDA's FSIS and AMS. The targeted classes of cattle to be sampled will include steers, heifers, and cows (including dairy). FSIS inspectors will act as PDP samplers to collect, package and ship liver, muscle, and adipose tissue to the USDA, AMS, Eastern Laboratory (AMS-EL) in Gastonia, North Carolina, for analysis.

The purpose of these procedures is to provide guidelines to FSIS inspectors carrying out PDP work during the sample collection process. Samples will be collected from Federally inspected beef slaughter plants and shipped to the AMS-EL for analysis. PDP's goal is to collect liver, muscle, and adipose tissue samples from 14 beef carcasses per week or approximately 670 samples annually. Each sample will be comprised of a minimum of one pound each of adipose, muscle, and liver tissues. Each tissue will be shipped to the AMS-EL in frozen condition.

## 6. **Specific Procedures:**

This SOP represents minimum PDP requirements for the collection, packaging, and shipping of beef samples. This SOP will be used as the measure of compliance in the event of a USDA/AMS sampling review.

### 6.1 **Collection of Beef Products**

- a. Samples will only be collected by FSIS personnel at federally inspected beef slaughter plants.
- b. FSIS is scheduled to collect samples from 14 beef carcasses per week.
- c. Each plant will be assigned a specific number of samples to be collected.
- d. It may be necessary that two or all three classes of cattle samples be collected from the same slaughter facility on the same day.
- e. Sample collection will begin during the week of June 25, 2001. Sampling dates are provided under Attachment B.
- f. Samples will not be collected during the week of July 4, 2001, November 22,

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2001, December 25, 2001, and January 1, 2002.

- g. FSIS inspectors shall collect a minimum of one (1) pound each of liver, muscle, and adipose tissue samples from one randomly selected carcass.
- h. FSIS inspectors will place each tissue in a separate plastic bag.
- i. Each bagged sample (liver, adipose tissue, and muscle), will be placed in a second plastic bag (“double-bagged”) and securely closed. For example, liver samples would be placed and sealed in a plastic bag that is then placed and sealed in a second plastic bag.
- j. Each sample bag will be labeled identifying the tissue and cattle class.
- k. Samples shall be placed in a freezer overnight to ensure that samples are shipped in frozen condition.

**6.2. Unified Sampling Form**

- a. FSIS inspectors shall complete all applicable information on FSIS Form 10,210-3, Requested Sample Programs, and place it in a separate plastic bag so that the form is not damaged during shipping.
- b. If a scheduled sample can not be collected, provide a brief explanation under section 28, “Remarks”.

**6.3 Packing Beef Products**

- a. Each sample must be packed by the FSIS inspector who collected the sample.
- b. Samples should be packaged for shipment at the collection site.
- c. If the collector packages and ships beef samples from a location other than the collection site, the collector must take necessary precautions to package the beef products in an insulated container to minimize thawing.
- d. All supplies used for packaging samples must be free of any contaminants that may affect the analytical results.
- e. Samples must be packed in the shipping containers provided by FSIS.

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- f. Collectors should place a solid polyethylene bag liner in the insulated container.
- g. Inspectors should place the frozen bagged samples in the bag liner and seal the liner in a manner that any attempt to tamper with the contents would be noticed easily.
- h. Samples must be packed utilizing a method (i.e., gel packs, dry ice) that will ensure that samples arrive in the laboratory in “cold to touch” condition.
- i. Shipping containers should be sealed in a manner that any attempt to tamper with the contents would be easily noticed (i.e., custody tape).
- j. Once the sample has been sealed in the official container, it may not be transferred to a different container at a later time.
- k. All packaging supplies will be provided by FSIS.

## **6.5 Shipping of Beef Products**

- a. Samples must be shipped the following week in which the sample was collected.
- b. The stored sample must be carefully inspected for damage or tampering.
- c. If the sample has been damaged or tampered, FSIS should contact Dr. Martha E. Styles, Technical Service Center, Omaha, Nebraska, to report the incident. FSIS may be required to resample.
- d. Ship PDP beef samples via an overnight service (i.e., FedEx) to the USDA, AMS-EL, Gastonia, North Carolina (Attachment A). The collection sites return address should be clearly marked on the outside of the shipping container.
- e. All samples must be shipped in frozen condition.

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- f. PDP recommends that the outside of the shipping container be labeled with the following phrase: "PDP Sample -- "Request Urgent Delivery--Place in Freezer Upon Arrival." This may help alert the shipping company and the laboratory to the type of contents and, hopefully, reduce abuse and mishandling.
- g. If dry ice is used, place a "dry ice" label on the outside of the shipping container.
- h. Ship the samples so that they arrive in the laboratory on a weekday.
- i. Do not ship on Friday or the day before a holiday.
- j. All shipping supplies will be provided by FSIS.

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## Attachment A

### Contact List—Beef Testing Program USDA’s Pesticide Data Program

Dr. Robert Epstein  
Deputy Administrator  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
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14th & Independence Ave., SW  
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Dr. Martha E. Styles  
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402-221-7401; ext. 7475

**USDA, AMS Laboratory Contacts**  
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Mike Legendre, Director  
USDA, AMS, S&T, Eastern Laboratory  
2311-B Aberdeen Boulevard  
Gastonia, North Carolina 28054  
704-867-3873  
704-853-2800—FAX

**SAMPLES RECEIPT AND SHIPPING ONLY:**  
Charles Lay, Quality Assurance Officer  
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## Attachment B

### Sample Collection Weeks

Month	Week of Sample Collection
<b>June</b>	25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>July</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>August</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>September</b>	3 <sup>re</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>October</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>ne</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>November</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>h</sup>
<b>December</b>	3 <sup>re</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup>
<b>January</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>February</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>March</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>April</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>May</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>June</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>