

ADMINISTRATIVE HOLD ON BULK GROUND BEEF – A594

Most of you have probably seen or at least heard about this HOLD last night or this morning on the news. This HOLD is only on BULK GROUND BEEF – A594.

It does affect two Commodity Processing companies in the State of Kentucky – Advance Food Company and Culinary Standard. This is not a reflection on the companies; this is product that was bought by USDA for distribution in the National School Lunch Program.

The following is the information we received from USDA:

We received news yesterday of serious allegations concerning the treatment of cattle at Westland Meat Company, a slaughter facility. For your information, AMS immediately suspended Westland Meat as a supplier to USDA yesterday (Jan. 30) and placed an administrative hold on all products in or destined for Federal food and nutrition programs. Anyone who received beef from this plant received an email, phone call, and/or fax last night until confirmation was received in this office that the message was delivered. Red meat processors were also notified last night. States that backhaul fine ground beef in 40 lb cases for reprocessing should notify their processors of the hold immediately.

More to follow, but that is what we have managed to do since finding out yesterday.

Please see this link for a statement from the USDA Secretary concerning Westland Meat Co.

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2008/01/0025.xml