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For Immediate Release

The Human Services Department Instructs Schools to Dispose of Recalled Beef

Most of the recalled beef in New Mexico is still in school district inventories

Santa Fe, New Mexico – The New Mexico Human Services Department today received instructions from the USDA on how to handle the nearly 3,000 cases of Westland Meat Co. recalled beef sent to 46 public and private school districts and 10 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) schools in New Mexico that participate in the school lunch program.

The USDA has instructed schools to dispose of the beef. All disposal methods must be fully documented regarding type of product and destruction method and must be witnessed with two signatures. Entities holding 50 cases or less may destroy the product on-site by rendering the product unfit for human consumption according to destruction guidance from the State Environment Department, Environmental Health Division. Quantities greater than 50 cases must be taken to a landfill, incinerated, or sent to inedible rendering.

The HSD Food and Nutrition Services bureau will be sending out instructions to all of the school districts who have the recalled beef. The school districts should follow the procedures detailed to destroy this product.

HSD received three shipments of Westland Meat Co. beef from the USDA in October and December for the school lunch program. The shipments were delivered to 46 private and public New Mexico school districts and 10 Bureau of Indian Affairs schools that participate in the school lunch program.

On February 1, the schools were notified by HSD to place all of their inventoried Westland Meat Co. beef on hold until further notice. Of the 3,000 cases delivered to the school districts, approximately 2,700 are still in school warehouse inventories. All of these cases must be destroyed.

The USDA will credit the school districts for the shipments of Westland Meat Co. recalled beef.

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