

RESULTS OF THE ANALYSES TO DETERMINE THE PRESENCE OF E.COLI O157:H7 IN FINAL PRODUCTS TO EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Since 1999 Uruguay has a program to monitor analyses performed to determine the presence of E. Coli O157:H57 in final products to export to Canada and the USA.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this report is to announce the results of the analyses performed in final products to export to Canada and the USA, for the abovementioned bacteria strain.

METHOD

The information contained herein corresponds to 16 slaughter plants which exported to the aforementioned markets during 2006, and summarizes Technical Reports Nos. 14, 15, 16 and 17 prepared by the Office of Technical Services to the Industry of the National Meat Institute (INAC), based on the results of the analyses carried out in the laboratories installed in said slaughter plants.

The lab technique used was Reveal Coli ®, with 99.9% sensitivity and 99.4% specificity, except in one of the labs, in which polymerase chain reaction (PCR technique) was used.

The sampling, according to the protocol established by INAC, consisted in choosing at random 5 cartons of each day's production to export to Canada and/or USA, and taking a sample of each one of them to be sent to the lab in order to determine the possible presence of E. Coli O157:H57. The protocol establishes that in presence of a presumed positive, the result be confirmed by the lab of the Hygiene Institute of the Medicine College of the University of the Republic.



RESULTS

For the period January-December 2006, 7515 analyses were carried out on a total of 32095 samples (cartons) of 118,553.373 metric tons exported to Canada and USA.

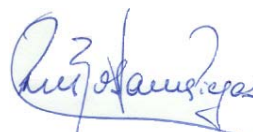
PERIOD	EXPORTED VOLUME (MT)	NUMBER OF RESULTS	NUMBER OF SAMPLES ANALYZED
January – March	41.051,355	1937	8341
April - June	26.074,879	2070	9014
July - September	17.912,423	1750	7350
October - December	33.514,716	1758	7390
TOTAL	118.553,373	7515	32095

All the results were negative for E.Coli O157:H7

INTERPRETATION OF THE INFORMATION

The results confirmed a very low risk of contamination of the Uruguayan final product, with a level of prevalence <0.0137% as demonstrated by Gil, A. et al. in the “Estimation of High Risk Limits for Escherichia Coli O157:H7 in Uruguayan Red Meat” report (June 2004).

Likewise, these results match with the study performed by the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, the College of Veterinary Medicine of the Colorado State University, and the National Institute of Agricultural Research, “Evaluation of Food Safety in the First Link of the Meat Production Chain in Uruguay” (2003 – 2004), where the conclusion is reached that there is a low prevalence of E. Coli O157:H7 in the feces of bovines in the livestock farms of Uruguay (0.008 % ± 0.008).



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