Ready-to-Eat Meat and Poultry Sampling Data – Data Documentation

Overview

These data are the sampling results of FSIS' routine RTE sampling programs. FSIS collects RTE samples both randomly (RTEPROD_RAND) and using a risk based algorithm (RTEPROD_RISK). Additional information can be found on the FSIS website.

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/microbiology/testing-program-for-rte-meat-and-poultry-products/testing-program-rte

Each row in this data set represents one sample collected and sent to an FSIS laboratory for analysis. Each sample is analyzed for both *Lm* and *Salmonella* Species.

Data Dictionary

- EstablishmentID
  - Definition: A unique identifier that is used to identify an establishment across data tables in the FSIS databases.
- EstablishmentNumber
  - Definition: A letter/number combination uniquely identifying each establishment.
- EstablishmentName
  - Definition: The name of an establishment on the FSIS grant of inspection.
- State
  - Definition: The state the establishment is located.
- ProjectCode
  - Definition: A short name given to easily identify a FSIS sampling project.
  - Projects in this dataset
    - RTEPROD_RAND – A Ready-to-Eat (RTE) sampling project. All FSIS regulated RTE producing establishments are eligible to be selected each month. Establishment selection is random.
    - RTEPROD_RISK - A RTE sampling project. FSIS regulated RTE producing establishments that produce at least one post-lethality exposed product are eligible to be selected each month. Establishment selection is risk based.
- ProjectName
  - Definition: The name of the FSIS sampling project.
- FormID
  - Definition: The form number used to identify a specific sample.

- CollectionDate
    - The date the FSIS inspector collected the sample at the FSIS regulated establishment.
- SampleSource
    - The type of product collected in the sample.
- SalmonellaSPAnalysis
    - Definition: The result of the analysis for *Salmonella* Species in the sample.
    - Negative = *Salmonella* was not found in the sample
    - Positive = *Salmonella* was found in the sample.
    - All RTE samples with a positive *Salmonella* result were either prevented from going into commerce due to test and hold or were recalled.
- ProductionAlternative
    - Definition: The production alternative used by the establishment to produce the product that was sampled.
    - Possible Alternatives
        - ALT 1 – The establishment uses a post-lethality treatment (PLT) to reduce or eliminate *Lm* in the product and an antimicrobial agent or process (AMAP) to limit or suppress growth of *Lm* in the product.
        - ALT 2 PLT (Post-Lethality Treatment) – The establishment uses a PLT to reduce or eliminate *Lm* in the product.
        - ALT 2 AMAP (Anti-Microbial Agent or Process) – The establishment uses AMAP to limit or suppress growth of *Lm* in the product.
        - ALT 3 – The establishment relies on sanitation alone to control *Lm* in the processing environment and on the product.
- ListeriaMonocytogeneseAnalysis
    - Definition: The result of the analysis for *Listeria Monocytogenes* (*Lm*) in the sample.
    - Negative = *Lm* was not found in the sample
    - Positive = *Lm* was found in the sample.
    - All RTE samples with a positive *Lm* result were either prevented from going into commerce due to test and hold or were recalled.

Relationship to Other Data

This data can be combined with other FSIS datasets using the EstablishmentID variable.

Notes and Limitations

Information about FSIS sampling laboratories and procedures can be found on the FSIS website.
http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/science/laboratories-and-procedures

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/science/laboratories-and-procedures/guidebooks-and-methods/microbiology-laboratory-guidebook/microbiology-laboratory-guidebook

NULL values indicate that the specific variable is not available for that record.

Starting with samples assigned and collected in October 2016, FSIS made a modification to its scheduling algorithms to increase the likelihood of detecting positives. FSIS has identified improvements to the sampling algorithm that could increase the Agency's likelihood of detecting positives. These improvements are in line with the FSIS Risk Assessment for Risk-Based Verification Sampling *of Listeria monocytogenes* (2010), and include updating the method used to assign sampling tasks each month, as well as updating several weighting factors used for RTEPROD_RISK such as the weighting factor used for product group.

In addition, the sampling allocation will be modified so that the total number of RTEPROD samples is split equally between the two projects (approximately 700 samples per month each). As a result of these modifications, establishments might notice a slight change in the frequency of sampling requests over time; however, the existing maximum of 1 RTEPROD sample per establishment per month will remain unchanged. The existing minimum of 2 RTEPROD samples per establishment per year will also remain unchanged.

Prior Analysis

Prior analysis using this data can be found on the FSIS website.
http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/microbiology/testing-program-for-rte-meat-and-poultry-products/testing-program-rte