



Outbreaks	Government	Farm to Fork
<p>Nationwide Salmonella: Tomatoes FDA is warning consumers to avoid Roma, red plum and red round tomatoes not attached to a vine because they may carry salmonella. At least 145 people, including two in Virginia, have been infected since mid-April, and new cases were being linked to the outbreak. At least one death in an immune compromised person is suspected. Florida officials have declared that Florida tomatoes have been cleared by FDA, and New Mexico officials claim the tomatoes came from Mexico although these reports must still be confirmed by FDA</p> <p>California TB: Cheese Cases of the <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> strain of TB have increased in California. San Diego officials believe the illnesses are caused by contaminated fresh cheese being sold by street vendors and smuggled across the Mexican border or produced by families who try to make a living selling so-called "bathtub cheese" made in home tubs and backyard troughs.</p> <p>Wisconsin: Norovirus Officials say the illness that struck about 50 people at a Sci Fi convention in Madison still has not been identified, but believe it is norovirus. They think some attendees might have been exposed to the illness before the convention since they developed symptoms so soon after arriving. The sick ones may have then infected others through personal contact and shared access to food.</p>	<p>Florida cites Checkers A popular Sanford fast food restaurant is accused of storing food on the floor inside the men's restroom. The food that was left on the floor in the restroom was just one of several critical violations health inspectors found at a Checkers location in Sanford, Florida. Employees at the Checkers store on South French Avenue at West 15th Street apparently decided it was okay to store buns for their hamburgers inside a not-so-clean men's room. It appears they had changed the policy (thank you), but not before racking up a dozen health code violations. A former customer was quoted as saying, "The bread was stacked sky high to the ceiling, plus it was only about 12 inches from the men's commode."</p> <p>Indiana finds butchering A Mexican restaurant was closed after an Indiana health inspector noticed a deer carcass had been butchered on the kitchen floor. Officials closed the Charreada restaurant after checking on a tip about butchering, which he said took place as customers ate lunch in the dining area. Health officials said the carcass shouldn't have been butchered on the kitchen floor.</p> <p>New York Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene Governor David A. Paterson announced that New York is the first state in the nation to meet, and in many areas exceed, nationally recognized food protection program standards set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).</p>	<p>Space Station and Salmonella vaccine The Salmonella vaccine development model that flew on STS-123 in March 2008 will fly again aboard the next Shuttle. "We are very confident this second flight of salmonella targets will validate, for the first time, that using microgravity can significantly enhance our ability to develop life-saving vaccines," said Jim Royston, president of SPACEHAB. Worldwide, salmonella diarrhea remains one of the top three causes of infant mortality, and a vaccine has the potential to make dramatic improvements in the third world.</p> <p>Scorpion in Melon at Wal-Mart A 12-year-old girl picking up a seedless watermelon from a bin at a Wal-Mart in West Virginia was stung by a scorpion, that had apparently stowed away in a shipment from Mexico. The father of the girl initially did not believe his daughter when she said she had been stung by a scorpion, but then he saw the critter scurry underneath a box. It was captured by Wal-Mart employees. Most of the nearly 2,000 kinds of scorpions are not dangerous to humans (but none should be in Wal-Mart's food-RC).</p> <p>Australia finds metal Australian authorities determined the source of metal contamination following an investigation. Authorities have blamed faulty kitchen tongs for pieces of metal being found in meat bought in supermarkets in four states. The faulty tongs contained a strip of metal to tension the tongs instead of older-style spring mechanisms.</p>