

More US beef being recalled over salmonella fears

■ Twelve million pounds of raw beef is now being recalled

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — An Arizona company is expanding the scope of its recall of raw beef that could be contaminated with salmonella, federal officials said Tuesday.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said in a news release that a unit of Brazil's JBS is now recalling a total of more than 12 million pounds (5.44 million kilograms) of raw beef that was shipped around the U.S. According to officials, information obtained in three additional cases of sickened patients led to the identification of other ground beef products that weren't part of the initial recall.

JBS Tolson in Arizona already recalled about 7 million pounds (3 million kilograms) of beef in October. Health officials say all the products up for recall have the USDA inspection number "EST 267."

"While no products in this expansion have been definitively linked to any illness, we have determined in consultation with USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) that this action is in the best interests of public health," JBS said in a statement Monday.

The products were packaged be-



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Nearly 250 people have been reported ill from 25 states since the recall, according to the CDC.

tween late July and September. The USDA says all the potentially tainted products have been removed from retailer stores. But the agency says people still may have products in their freezers that should be thrown away.

There were 246 illnesses reported from 25 states as of mid-November, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

All of them started between August and mid-October. While 59 people have been hospitalized, no deaths have been

reported.

The USDA says salmonella is prevalent in raw poultry and meat and is reminding people to properly cook and handle meat. It says cooking kills salmonella.

Most people recover from salmonella infections without treatment, health officials say. If exposed to the bacteria, people typically get diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever in the first 12 to 72 hours. The symptoms can last up to a week.

TOYS

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said. But he added that screen time can overwhelm young children and is difficult to limit and control.

The academy's website offers suggestions on ideal toys for young children, including balls, puzzles, coloring books and card games.

Shopping recently at Dancing

Bear Toys in Asheville, N.C., a store that doesn't sell electronic toys, Leah Graham Stewart said she supports the academy's advice even if avoiding digital toys and games is tough.

She said she's noticed her two young boys tend to misbehave after playing on an iPad she typically reserves for long airplane rides.

"We try to keep it as minimal as possible," Graham Stewart said. "I just tell

them to go outside and play."

Erika Evers, Dancing Bear's co-owner, said the store's mission is to give kids an alternative to tech toys.

"Not that video games and electronic toys don't have their place — in moderation, in our opinion," she said. "But we feel like kids really need opportunities to socialize and interact with their environment in a way that is hands-on and tangible."

AMAZON

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of delivering packages by drones in 30 minutes or less a reality," says Amazon spokeswoman Kristen Kish.

The Seattle-based online retail giant says it has drone development centers in the United States, Austria, France, Israel and the United Kingdom.

Delivery companies have been testing the use of drones to deliver emergency supplies and to cover ground quickly in less populated areas. By contrast, package deliveries would be concentrated in office parks and neighborhoods where there are bigger issues around safety and privacy.

In May, the Trump administration approved a three-year program for private companies and local government agencies to test drones for deliveries, inspections and other tasks.

But pilot programs by major delivery companies suggest few Americans will be greeted by package-bearing drones any time soon. United Parcel Service tested launching a drone from a delivery truck that was covering a rural route in Florida. DHL Express, the German delivery company, tested the use of drones to deliver medicine from Tanzania to an island in Lake Victoria.

Frank Appel, the CEO of DHL's parent company, Deutsche Post AG, said "over the next couple of years" drones will remain a niche vehicle and not

widely used. He said a big obstacle is battery life.

"If you have to recharge them every other hour, then you need so many drones and you have to orchestrate that. So good luck with that," he told The Associated Press.

Appel said human couriers have another big advantage over drones: They know where customers live and which doorbell to ring. "To program that in IT is not that easy and not cheap," he said.

Analysts say it will take years for the Federal Aviation Administration to write all the rules to allow widespread drone deliveries.

Snow, the CEO of Skylogic Research, says a rule permitting operators to fly drones beyond their line of sight — so critical to deliveries — is at least 10 years away. A method will be needed to let law enforcement identify drones flying over people — federal officials are worried about their use by terrorists.

While the rules are being written, companies will rely on waivers from the FAA to keep experimenting and running small-scale pilot programs.

"People like DHL and the rest of them (will say), 'Hey, we can deliver via drone this parcel package to this island,' but that's not the original vision that Amazon presented," Snow says.

There is a long list of FAA rules governing drone flights. They generally can't fly higher than 400 feet, over many federal facilities, or within five miles of an airport. Night



Courtesy photo

FAA regulations are slowing things down for Amazon, which announced it wants to deliver packages via drones.

flights are forbidden. For the delivery business, the biggest holdup is that the machines must remain within sight of the operator at all times.

In June, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine said the FAA was being overly conservative in its safety standards for drones.

The group said FAA's risk-averse attitude was holding back beneficial uses, such as drones helping firefighters who are battling a fierce blaze.

Even before the criticism by the scientific panel, the FAA had begun to respond more quickly to operators' requests for waivers from some rules, says Alan Perlman, founder of the Drone Pilot Ground School in

Nashville, Tennessee. He said it is also getting easier and cheaper to buy liability insurance.

Bezos was mindful of the safety issues, telling "60 Minutes" back in 2013, "This thing can't land on somebody's head while they're walking around their neighborhood."

That didn't stop him from predicting that drones fed with GPS coordinates would be taking off and making deliveries in "four, five years. I think so. It will work, and it will happen."

To Perlman, the billionaire's optimism made perfect sense.

"When you're in his world you think more about technology than regulations, and the (drone) technology is there," Perlman said.

CHECKLIST

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may consider options. In today's world, a bookkeeper or virtual CFO can be attained at minimal cost. The same can be said for social media, web design and human resource management.

Evaluate your employees. The end of the year is a great time to look at staff and determine what needs are being met and what may be falling by the wayside. Are your employees properly trained in the jobs you are asking of them? In the case of dismissal or illness, are your employees cross-trained so the business continues? Is your management team appropriate or has your business changed so the team needs revamping?

Evaluate your location, machinery and equipment. December is prime time to take a hard look at what you have on hand. Is your location too large or too small? Does your machin-

ery need repair or updating? If transportation is involved in your business, will the vehicles last an additional year or is it time for a replacement?

Send 1099s. The Internal Revenue Service requires 1099s be sent to vendors, independent contractors and the IRS by Jan. 31. Most accounting software systems make this an easy task.

Decide if 2019 will be your final year. There is an end to everything, including a small business. Owners retire or sell or change businesses daily. If you see 2019 as possibly your final year due to illness, a change in life circumstances or a change in the market place, start now to make the transition.

Greg Smith is the director of Baker County Economic Development. For business information assistance, stop by the office located at 1705 Main Street, Suite 500-A in Baker City, send an email to bakercountyedc@gmail.com or call 541-523-5460.

OCHOCOS

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year round from Ochocos Outdoors online.

The outdoor retailer also carries a wide range of hunting equipment, including centerfire rifles, ammunition and muzzleloader firearms and accessories; outdoor apparel such as camouflage, pants, jackets and backpacks produced by Sitka Gear; archery equipment like crossbows, arrows, broad heads and decoys manufactured companies including Excalibur; and optics, including rangefinders, scopes and binoculars produced by Vortex and Burris. Other brand names carried by Ochocos include Thompson Center, CVA, Lyman, Traditions Performance Firearms and Williams Gun Sight Company.

The new shop complements an online business that ships gear to customers in all 50 states and a number of other countries each year.

Watts said most online customers in the continental United States receive their orders in two to three days. Shipping is free for

orders of more than \$50 and \$4.99 for those less than \$50. To order items online visit www.ochocos.com or call 855-297-7000.

Ochocos Outdoors is owned by Gemmer & Clemens Inc. and its president is Jeff Clemens of La Grande. Clemens and his brother, Cole, who died in February 2017, founded Ochocos Outdoors.

"We live in a town that has deep country roots and values, with a passion for the outdoors. A large amount of our time is spent exploring new areas and trying out new equipment and gear so we have firsthand knowledge of the products and accessories we offer," Jeff Clemens wrote in a statement on the Ochocos Outdoors website.

Watts said he and Wheeling are enjoying working in the new shop at Bearco Loop because they both are avid outdoorsmen.

"It is a passion of ours, and we enjoy hearing the (hunting and fishing) stories of people who come in," West said. "We are as excited about our products as our customers are."

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