

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: FDA's Investigation into the Salmonella Enteritidis Outbreak Involving the Recall of Shell Eggs
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/NewsEvents/WhatsNewinFood/ucm223723.htm>
Information on Positive Environmental and Feed Samples

Q: How many samples has FDA collected and what are the results?

A: FDA has collected hundreds of samples from Wright County Egg and Hillandale Farms Inc. of Iowa during this investigation. The majority are still pending.

We have reported the following:

- 4 positive environmental samples that match the DNA fingerprint of the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Enteritidis. These were swab samples collected from manure, as well as traffic areas such as walkways, equipment, other surfaces in and around the facility
- 2 positive samples collected from the feed mill. The finished feed was provided to pullets raised at Wright County Egg facilities in Iowa. Pullets are distributed to all premises at Wright County Egg in Iowa and Hillandale Farms in Iowa.
- In reviewing records as part of our investigation, FDA has not found that this feed went to any companies other than Wright County Egg and Hillandale Farms of Iowa.

Q: What does this mean in terms of the investigation?

A: These positive samples, along with the DNA fingerprint (also known as pulsed-field gel electrophoresis [PFGE]), indistinguishable from the outbreak strain, indicate that Wright County Egg and Hillandale Farms of Iowa are the likely sources of the contaminated shell eggs.

A positive finding of SE in the feed or feed ingredient intended for poultry would mean that the feed is adulterated.

This is part of the overall, ongoing investigation of the operations that can help us understand the cause of this contamination.

Q: What are FDA's next steps in its investigation of the feed?

A: It is not known at this time how the feed became contaminated. Some of the factors include examining the storage of the feed and feed ingredients at the farms, feed handling practices on the farm, and other issues, such as origin of the feed ingredients. Other actions would include examining the possibility of contamination of the feed by rodents or birds at the feed mill, whether equipment used to handle manure or bird carcasses is also used to handle feed, and a variety of other potential environmental causes. The feed mill is located within 6 miles of the various farms, with most of the farms located 2 miles or less from the feed mill.