



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
Governor

Gregory N. Larkin, M.D., F.A.A.F.P.  
State Health Commissioner

**DATE:** April 6, 2010  
**TO:** All Local Health Departments  
Attn: Chief Food Inspection Officer  
**FROM:** <sup>DLG</sup> A. Scott Gilliam, MBA, CP-FS  
Director, Food Protection Program  
**SUBJECT:** North American Bison Co-Op Recall

**SUGGESTED ACTION:** Class II Recall; Whole beef heads containing tongues that may not have had the tonsils completely removed; Information provided in case of consumer inquiry.

From the information provided by USDA, the product being recalled was distributed in the neighboring State of Michigan. The recalled products were produced between June 25, 2009, and February 19, 2010. These products were shipped to distribution centers in Md., Mich., and Minn. for further sale. Detail information is not available at this time. In addition, if any recalled product is found, please notify this office at 317-233-7360.

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### North Dakota Firm Recalls Whole Beef Head Products That Contain Prohibited Materials

Recall Release  
FSIS-RC-023-2010

**CLASS II RECALL**  
**HEALTH RISK: LOW**

Congressional and Public Affairs  
(202) 720-9113  
Catherine Cochran

**WASHINGTON, April 5, 2010** - North American Bison Co-Op, a New Rockford, N.D., establishment is recalling approximately 25,000 pounds of whole beef heads containing tongues that may not have had the tonsils completely removed, which is not compliant with regulations that require the removal of tonsils from cattle of all ages, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today.

Tonsils are considered a specified risk material (SRM) and must be removed from cattle of all ages in accordance with FSIS regulations. SRMs are tissues that are known to contain the infective agent in cattle infected with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), as well as materials that are closely associated with these

potentially infective tissues. Therefore, FSIS prohibits SRMs from use as human food to minimize potential human exposure to the BSE agent.

The product subject to recall includes:

- Various weight cases of "Beef Heads KEEP FROZEN." Each case bears the establishment number "EST. 18859" inside the USDA mark of inspection and a case code number "16999." "North Dakota Natural Beef" is printed in the bottom left-hand corner of each label.

The recalled products were produced between June 25, 2009, and February 19, 2010. These products were shipped to distribution centers in Md., Mich., and Minn. for further sale.

The problem was discovered during FSIS inspection activities at the establishment. FSIS routinely conducts recall effectiveness checks to verify recalling firms notify their customers of the recall and that steps are taken to make certain that the product is no longer available to consumers.

Media with questions about the recall should contact Philip Wicke, Vice President of Operations, at (701) 356-7723. Consumers with questions about the recall should contact Jeremy Anderson, Director of Customer Service, at (952) 545-2495.

Consumers with food safety questions can "Ask Karen," the FSIS virtual representative available 24 hours a day at [AskKaren.gov](http://AskKaren.gov). The toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) is available in English and Spanish and can be reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday through Friday. Recorded food safety messages are available 24 hours a day.

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