

PRESS RELEASE



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Jerry Farrell, Jr.
Commissioner

May 13, 2008

Department of Consumer Protection Warns Consumers to Check for Recalled Ground Beef Products that May Contain Plastic Pieces

HARTFORD, May 13, 2008 -- The Department of Consumer Protection is asking that consumers check packages of recently purchased packages of ground beef, in light of an announcement yesterday that Fairbank Reconstruction Corporation of Ashville, NY, is voluntarily recalling approximately 22,481 pounds of ground beef products that may contain pieces of plastic.

The products were produced on May 3rd and distributed to Price Chopper, Shaw's and BJ's stores in Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts and New York.

"Department of Consumer Protection food inspectors are in stores today making sure these items have been removed from sale, but since these products may already have been purchased, consumers should take a moment to review the list carefully, and if they find any of the recalled items at home, return them to the store for a refund," Consumer Protection Commissioner Jerry Farrell, Jr. said.

The following products are subject to recall:

- 1.2-pound trays of "Shaw's Fresh Ground Sirloin 90/10." The labels on the bottom of the package are marked with "124" on the bottom right hand corner, as well as the establishment number "EST. 492" inside the USDA mark of inspection.
- 1.3-pound trays of "Shaw's Fresh Ground Beef 80/20." The labels on the bottom of the package are marked with "124" on the bottom right hand corner, as well as the establishment number "EST. 492" inside the USDA mark of inspection.
- 1-pound trays of "Shaw's Fresh Ground Beef Patties 80/20." The labels on the bottom of the package are marked with "124" on the bottom right hand corner, as well as the establishment number "EST. 492" inside the USDA mark of inspection.
- 3-pound trays of "Shaw's Fresh Ground Beef Patties Family Pack 80/20." The labels on the bottom of the package are marked with "124" on the bottom right hand corner, as well as the establishment number "EST. 492" inside the USDA mark of inspection.
- 1.3-pound trays of "Price Chopper Fresh Ground Beef Sirloin Patties, 90% Lean 10% Fat." The labels on the bottom of the package bear a "Sell-by" date of "05/13/08" as well as the establishment number "EST. 492" inside the USDA mark of inspection.
- 1.3- and 3-pound trays of "Price Chopper Fresh Homestyle Ground Beef Round Patty, 85% Lean 15% Fat." The labels on the bottom of the package bear a "Sell-by" date of "05/13/08" as well as the establishment number "EST. 492" inside the USDA mark of inspection.
- 3-pound trays of "Price Chopper Pub Style Ground Beef Chuck Patty, 80% Lean 20% Fat." The labels on the bottom of the package bear a "Sell-by" date of "05/13/08" as well as the establishment number "EST. 492" inside the USDA mark of inspection.

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- 1.3-pound trays of “Price Chopper Fresh Homestyle Ground Beef Chuck Patty, 80% Lean, 20% Fat.” The labels on the bottom of the package bear a “Sell-by” date of “05/13/08” as well as the establishment number “EST. 492” inside the USDA mark of inspection.
- 5.3-pound trays of “BJ’S Fresh Ground Beef, 100% Beef, Contains 15% Fat.” The labels bear a “Sell-by” date of “05/15/08” as well as the establishment number “EST. 492” inside the USDA mark of inspection.
- 1-pound trays of “Fairbank Farms Ground Chuck Patties, 100% Beef, Contains 20% Fat.” The labels on the bottom of the package bear a “Sell-by” date of “05/15/08” as well as the establishment number “EST. 492” inside the USDA mark of inspection.

The problem was discovered after the company received consumer complaints. No injuries have been reported at this time. Anyone concerned about an injury from consumption of the products should contact a physician.

Consumers with questions about the recall should contact the Fairbank Farms’ toll-free hotline at (800) 724-1136. Media with questions about the recall should contact Company Representative at Agnes Schafer (816) 512-2291.

Consumers with food safety questions can “Ask Karen,” the US Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service virtual representative, available 24 hours a day at 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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