

# RECIPE FOR DISASTER

## Food Recalls Proliferate While Food Safety Fix Awaits Action

The recall of more than 500 million eggs from two Iowa egg farms is the largest but not the last of 85 recalls that have taken place in the year since food safety reform moved to the U.S. Senate. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Food Safety Enhancement Act (H.R. 2749) on July 30, 2009. However, the Senate's version of the bill – the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (S. 510) – has languished while waiting for time on the Senate's floor schedule.

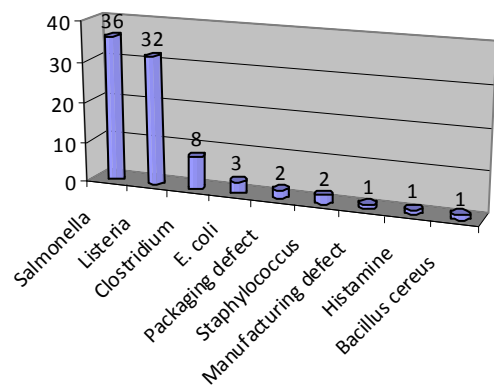
To assess one cost of that delay, Consumer Federation of America, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, and U.S. Public Interest Research Group studied recalls of foods regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from August 1, 2009, to the present. That study found that a wide variety of foods were recalled in the 13-month period due to contamination by *Salmonella*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, and other bacteria. In several cases, the recalls involved products that found their way into other foods, expanding into a “rolling recall” with successive announcements as more contaminated products were identified by FDA. The recalls involved tons of foods, including many name-brand products from more than 150 companies.

While most of the recalls were not connected to outbreaks, illnesses were associated with nine recalls that together were associated with 1,850 reported illnesses. Such confirmed illnesses are rare, as they require a consumer to seek medical care, and for the severity of the illness to lead to laboratory testing. Thus, the absence of confirmed illnesses does not definitively mean that illnesses didn't occur. But it is a good sign that most recalls were initiated before an outbreak was identified.

The majority of the recalls identified by the study involved potentially deadly pathogens. The most common was *Salmonella*, which caused 42 percent of the recalls. Approximately 400 people die from *Sal-*

*monella* infections each year, and for some survivors salmonellosis can lead to long-term health impacts such as Reiter's syndrome and reactive arthritis. The second-most-common pathogen cited in recall notices was *Listeria monocytogenes*. While *Listeria* may present as flu-like symptoms in adults, it causes about 500 deaths each year among children, the elderly and immune compromised persons. It is a particularly serious threat to pregnant women because infections can lead to miscarriage or stillbirth, premature delivery, or infection of the newborn.

Pathogens and Dangers in Recalled Products



There are 85 recalls and 86 counts of microbial contamination due to the Morningland Dairy recall involving both *Listeria* and *Staphylococcus*.

Legislation designed to update food safety laws administered by FDA was introduced at the beginning of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. While the House and Senate bills differ, both would give FDA the tools to *prevent* future outbreaks and recalls. The bills require food companies to build safety into their processing procedures and provide FDA with the authority to set safety standards and order recalls when those standards are not met. Under both bills, FDA would be required to increase the number of inspections it performs, improving the chances that problems will be caught before they result in major recalls.



## Food Recalls Occurring Between August 1, 2009 and August 31, 2010

<u>Date</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Reported Illnesses</u>	<u>States Affected</u>
8/7/2009	Adams Extract & Spice	Ground red pepper		Salmonella	0	3
8/12/2009	Peregrina Cheese Corporation	Cheese products		Listeria	0	2
8/12/2009	NewStar Fresh Foods	Iced jumbo green onions	772 cartons	Salmonella	0	3
		Frozen Culinary Circle gourmet				
8/14/2009	Supervalu, Inc.	Macaroni & Cheese		Listeria	0	29
8/18/2009	Quesos Mi Pueblito	Cheese products		Listeria	0	4
8/27/2009	Melon Acres	Cantaloupe		Salmonella	0	3
8/28/2009	Circle Produce	Iceless green onions	1,746 cases	Salmonella	0	1
	<i>(8/28/2009) Steinbeck Country</i>	<i>Iceless green onions</i>	<i>3,360 cartons</i>	<i>Salmonella</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>9</i>
8/29/2009	Supervalu, Inc.	Frozen fettucini		Listeria	0	
8/30/2009	Texas Coffee Company	Red pepper		Salmonella	0	2
		Eggo Cinnamon Toast Waffles and				
		Eggo Toaster Swirlz Cinnamon Roll				
9/2/2009	Kellogg	Minis		Listeria	0	51
9/4/2009	Premier Organics	Artisina Raw Tahini	840 cases	Salmonella	0	51
9/10/2009	Kilwin's Quality Confections, Inc.	Chocolate-covered peanuts		Salmonella	0	12
9/11/2009	Muranaka Farm, Inc.	Parsley	1,005 cases	Salmonella	0	10
9/18/2009	Ippolito International	Spinach	1,715 cases	Salmonella	0	12
10/12/2009	Fisher/Rex Sandwiches	Sandwiches		Listeria	0	3
10/12/2009	John B. Sanfilippo & Son	Walnuts		Listeria	0	
10/15/2009	TGF Production	Herring Salted		Clostridium	0	51
		Apple & Carrot Portable Pouch				
10/19/2009	Plum Organics	baby food		Clostridium	0	51
10/19/2009	Raley's	Cantaloupe	1,120 cartons	Salmonella	0	2
		Vacuum Pack Dried Krasnoperka				
10/26/2009	San Link, Inc.	and Vacuum Pack Dried Lesh		Clostridium	0	3
11/19/2009	Service Smoked Fish Corp.	Smoked Nova Salmon		Listeria	0	6
12/20/2009	Renard's Cheese	Bacon cold-pack cheese spread		Listeria	0	1
11/20/2009	Five Crowns Marketing	Cantaloupe		Salmonella	0	10
11/22/2009	Timco Worldwide, Inc.	Large seedless watermelon		Salmonella	0	2
		Slim-Fast ready-to-drink canned				
12/3/2009	Unilever	products		Bacillus cereus	0	51
12/17/2009	Kunze Farms	Hazelnut kernels	32,950 lbs.	Salmonella	0	7
	<i>(12/17/2009) Willamette Shelling</i>	<i>Shelled hazelnuts</i>	<i>114,350 lbs.</i>	<i>Salmonella</i>	<i>0</i>	
		<i>Shelled hazelnuts and shelled organic ha-</i>				
	<i>(12/17/2009) Willamette Filbert Growers</i>	<i>zelnuts</i>	<i>29,861 lbs.</i>	<i>Salmonella</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>

Companies listed in *italics* are an expansion of earlier recall.

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	<i>(12/18/2009) Mountain Man Nut &amp; Fruit Co.</i>	<i>Products containing shelled hazelnuts</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	
	<i>(12/19/2009) Whole Foods Market</i>	<i>Hazelnuts</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	6
	<i>(12/19/2009) Evonuk Oregon Hazelnuts</i>	<i>Roasted hazelnut kernels</i>	<i>6,712.5 lbs.</i>	<i>Salmonella</i>	0	6
	<i>(12/19/2009) Harry and David</i>	<i>Shelled hazelnut kernels</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	1
	<i>(12/21/2009) Burnt Ridge Orchards, Inc.</i>	<i>Shelled hazelnuts</i>	<i>98 lbs.</i>	<i>Salmonella</i>	0	1
	<i>(12/22/2009) Market of Choice</i>	<i>Hazelnuts</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	1
	<i>(12/24/2009) Janzen Farms</i>	<i>Hazelnut kernels</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	2
<b>12/23/2009</b>	Limeno	Rico Queso duro blanco		Salmonella	0	1
<b>1/6/2010</b>	Bao Ding Seafood	Boiled Horse Mackerel		Clostridium	0	
<b>1/7/2010</b>	ShopRite	Hash browns		Listeria	0	
<b>1/8/2010</b>	Parkers Farm, Inc.	Peanut butter, cheese spreads, salsa		Listeria	0	51
	<i>(1/11/2010) HP Hood</i>	<i>Cold Pack Cheese Food</i>		<i>Listeria</i>	0	14
<b>1/10/2010</b>	The Wisconsin Cheeseman	Cheese products		Listeria	0	
				Packaging defect - may contain bacteria		
<b>1/13/2010</b>	Nurture, Inc.	Baby food pouch meals		bacteria	0	
<b>1/14/2010</b>	PEO Chapter FO	Roasted hazelnuts	75 lbs.	Salmonella	0	1
<b>1/15/2010</b>	Hines Nut Company	Pine Nuts	270 packages	Salmonella	0	1
<b>1/20/2010</b>	Giant Eagle Inc.	Hash browns		Listeria	0	4
<b>2/3/2010</b>	Haifa Smoked Fish, Inc.	Whole Schmaltz Herring		Clostridium	0	2
<b>2/10/2010</b>	Trader Joe's	Chocolate Chip Chewy Coated Granola Bars		Salmonella	0	51
<b>2/11/2010</b>	Estrella Family Creamery	Red Darla, Domino, Brewleggio, and Wynoochee River Blue cheeses		Listeria	0	4
<b>2/19/2010</b>	Queseria Bendita	Queso Fresco, Panela, Requeson cheeses		Listeria	5	2
<b>2/25/2010</b>	Thumb Oilseed	Soy grits and flour		Salmonella	0	
	<i>(2/18/2010) Fresh &amp; Easy Neighborhood Market, Inc.</i>	<i>Cherry Chocolate Chip Granola Bars</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	3
	<i>(2/19/2010) Lovin Oven</i>	<i>Granola Bars</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	
	<i>(3/11/2010) GFN Foods</i>	<i>Gluten-free baked good mixes</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	
<b>2/25/2010*</b>	Wholesome Spice	Crushed red pepper		Salmonella	0	
<b>2/26/2010</b>	American Pecan Co.	Pecan pieces		Salmonella	0	3
<b>2/26/2010</b>	Basic Food Flavors, Inc.	Hydrolyzed vegetable protein		Salmonella	0	51

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(2/26/2010)	<i>Johnny's Fine Foods</i>	<i>French Dip Powdered Au Jus</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
(2/27/2010)	<i>Kroger</i>	<i>Onion Soup &amp; Dip Mixes</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	26
(3/1/2010)	<i>T. Marzetti Company</i>	<i>Veggie and Chip Dips</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
(3/2/2010)	<i>Castella Imports</i>	<i>Castella Chicken Soup Base</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
		<i>Hawaiian Kettle Style Potato Chips - Sweet Maui Onion and Hawaiian - Sweet</i>				
(3/2/2010)	<i>Tim's Cascade Snacks</i>	<i>Maui Onion Rings</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
(3/3/2010)	<i>Reser's Fine Foods, Inc.</i>	<i>Dressings, dips, redskins potatoes</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
(3/3/2010)	<i>Homemade Gourmet</i>	<i>Tortilla Soup Mix</i>	320 packages	<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
(3/3/2010)	<i>Earth Island</i>	<i>Tofu, pastas, burritos, beef, dressings</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
(3/4/2010)	<i>Creative Contract Packaging</i>	<i>Bouillon products</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	
(3/4/2010)	<i>Orval Kent</i>	<i>Culinary Circle dips</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
(3/5/2010)	<i>McCormick &amp; Company</i>	<i>Dip mix and bread stuffing</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
(3/5/2010)	<i>Concord Foods</i>	<i>Vegetable Dip Seasoning mix</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
(3/5/2010)	<i>National Pretzel Company</i>	<i>Honey Mustard Onion Seasoned Pretzels</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
(3/5/2010)	<i>Mrs. Gerry's Kitchen, Inc.</i>	<i>Spinach dips</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	11
(3/5/2010)	<i>Ventura Foods</i>	<i>Dean's Dip products</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	
(3/5/2010)	<i>Fresh Food Concepts</i>	<i>Spinach dips and crab spread</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
		<i>Cracked Pepper and Sea Salt Flavored</i>				
(3/8/2010)	<i>Herr Foods, Inc.</i>	<i>Kettle Style Potato Chip</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
		<i>Mixes containing honey mustard or onion</i>				
(3/8/2010)	<i>GNS Foods, Inc.</i>	<i>pretzels</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	6
(3/8/2010)	<i>Publix</i>	<i>Seasoning mixes</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	
		<i>Pringles Restaurant Cravers Cheeseburger</i>				
		<i>and Pringles Family Faves Taco Night</i>				
(3/8/2010)	<i>Procter &amp; Gamble</i>	<i>potato crisps</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	
(3/9/2010)	<i>Nutritional Resources</i>	<i>Healthwise Cream of Mushroom Soup</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
(3/9/2010)	<i>Olde Westport Spice</i>	<i>Garden Harvest Special Blend Seasoning</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
(3/10/2010)	<i>Austinuts of Dallas, Inc.</i>	<i>Honey Mustard Pretzels</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	1
(3/10/2010)	<i>Quaker</i>	<i>Snack Mix Baked Cheddar</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
(3/11/2010)	<i>Emmi - Roth Kase USA</i>	<i>Cheese spreads</i>	1,971 containers	<i>Salmonella</i>	0	
		<i>Toasted Garlic &amp; Parmesan Cheese Ball</i>				
(3/12/2010)	<i>Tastefully Simple</i>	<i>Mix</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	
(3/15/2010)	<i>Produce Valley, Inc.</i>	<i>Produce Valley Toasted Onion Dip Mix</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	
(3/15/2010)	<i>Kroger</i>	<i>Seasoning blends</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
(3/16/2010)	<i>Barcel</i>	<i>Tostachos</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	

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	<i>(3/25/2010) Modern Products</i>	<i>Seasonings and broths</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
	<i>(3/29/2010) Lance, Inc.</i>	<i>Tom's Barbeque Potato Chips</i>	28,087 cases	<i>Salmonella</i>	0	33
	<i>(3/30/2010) Watkins, Inc.</i>	<i>Crab Snack &amp; Dip Seasoning</i>	306 units	<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
	<i>(4/27/2010) MiDAS Foods International</i>	<i>Instant Beef Soup dry mix and Instant Beef Stroganoff sauce mix</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	2
<b>3/1/2010</b>	Heartland Foods, Inc.	Coarse ground black pepper		Salmonella	0	
<b>3/5/2010</b>	Estrella Family Creamery	Old Apple Tree Tomme Cheese		Listeria	0	1
<b>3/5/2010*</b>	Mincing Overseas Spice Company	Black pepper		Salmonella	272	12
	<i>(3/9/2010) Frontier Natural Products Co-op</i>	<i>Spices/seasonings</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
	<i>(3/9/2010) Frontier Natural Products Co-op</i>	<i>Black pepper, seasoning, and dip mixes</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
	<i>(3/17/2010) Spice Barn, Inc.</i>	<i>Peppercorns, ground black pepper</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	16
	<i>(3/17/2010) C. H. Guenther &amp; Son, Inc.</i>	<i>Seasoning mixes, gravies, stews, chicken Uncle Buck's® Beer Batter Mix Lightly-Seasoned</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
	<i>(3/18/2010) Bass Pro Shops</i>	<i>McCain All American Roaster frozen potato product</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
	<i>(3/19/2010) McCain Foods USA</i>	<i>potato product</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
	<i>(3/19/2010) John B. Sanfilippo &amp; Son, Inc.</i>	<i>Snack mixes and cashews</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
	<i>(3/23/2010) Blue Line Foodservice Distribution</i>	<i>Little Caesars Spice Paks</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
	<i>(3/25/2010) Perfect Candy &amp; Packaging Co.</i>	<i>Whole Black Peppercorns</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	51
	<i>(3/30/2010) Binell Bros. Cutlery</i>	<i>Ground black pepper</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	1
<b>3/12/2010</b>	Special Commodities Corp.	White sesame seeds		Salmonella	0	
	<i>(3/12/2010) Julia's Spices, Inc.</i>	<i>Hulled sesame seeds</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	2
	<i>(3/15/2010) Spice Industrial Group, Inc.</i>	<i>Lian How White Sesame Seeds</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	0	1
<b>4/2/2010</b>	NY Gourmet Salads, Inc.	Chick Pea Salad	60 lbs.	Listeria	0	1
		Whole Catch Yellow Fin Tuna				
<b>4/4/2010</b>	Whole Foods Market	Steaks		Histamine	2	28
<b>4/5/2010</b>	Del Bueno	Queso Fresco		Listeria	1	2
<b>4/9/2010</b>	H-E-B	French Onion Dip		Salmonella	0	
		Ground Black Pepper Double				
<b>4/14/2010</b>	MY-A & Co.	Golden Fish		Salmonella	0	11

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4/17/2010	Stop & Shop/Giant	Frozen artichoke and spinach dip		Listeria	0	10
5/6/2010	Freshway Foods	Shredded romaine lettuce		E. coli	26	24
5/6/2010	Mt. Vikos, Inc.	Manouri Cheese		Listeria	0	51
5/13/2010	Amish Wedding Foods, Inc.	Pumpkin and sweet potato butters		Clostridium	0	45
5/21/2010	Caldwell Fresh Foods	Alfalfa sprouts		Salmonella	44	51
5/24/2010	Fresh Express	Romaine-based ready-to-eat salads		Salmonella	0	26
5/27/2010	organicgirl Produce	Baby spinach	336 cases	Salmonella	0	6
6/14/2010	Portland Shellfish Company, Inc.	Lobster meat		Listeria	0	51
6/24/2010	Lancaster Foods	Fresh spinach		Listeria	0	6
				Packaging defect - may contain		
6/30/2010	Tri-Union Seafoods	Chicken of the Sea white tuna in water	1,105 cases	bacteria	0	10
7/1/2010	Azteca Linda Corp.	Queso fresco and queso hebra		Listeria	0	2
7/5/2010	Marjon Specialty Foods, Inc.	Sliced apples	119 cases	Listeria	0	1
7/7/2010	Ready Pac Foods, Inc.	Baby spinach	702 cases	E. coli	0	3
7/8/2010	J. Hellman Frozen Foods, Inc.	Senor Mexicano Avocado pulp	992 cases	Listeria	0	2
7/8/2010	Miravalle Foods, Inc.	Miravalle Chile California & Miravalle Chile Nuevo Mexico	37,318 lbs.	Salmonella	0	8
7/13/2010	Fresh Express	Romaine lettuce products		E. coli	0	
7/15/2010	D & M Smoked Fish, Inc.	Schmaltz Herring		Clostridium	0	
		Raquel's hummus, salads, wraps, sandwiches, burritos, stuffed grape leaves				
7/22/2010	Quong Hop & Co.			Listeria	0	6
		Organic alfalfa sprouts blend and organic alfalfa sprouts salad		Listeria	0	9
7/23/2010	Specialty-Farms			Listeria	0	3
7/23/2010	Pasco Processing	Corn and poblano peppers	2,087 cases	Listeria	0	
				Manufacturing defect	0	17
8/4/2010	Optimus, Inc.	Eugenio Brezzi Truffle Puree		Staphylococcus	0	1
8/6/2010	Mexicali Cheese Corp.	Queso Cotija Cheese		Listeria	0	26
8/10/2010	Fresh Express	Veggie Lovers salad	2,825 cases	Listeria	0	11
8/11/2010	Goya Foods, Inc.	Frozen Mamey Pulp		Salmonella	7	3
	<i>(8/18/2010) Fruiti Pops, Inc.</i>	<i>Mamey Frozen Fruit Bars</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>
	<i>(8/18/2010) Montalwan's Sales, Inc.</i>	<i>Frozen mamey pulp</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>
8/13/2010**	Wright County Egg	Shell eggs	380,000,000 eggs	Salmonella	1,470	51
	<i>(8/19/2010) Country Eggs, Inc.</i>	<i>Shell eggs</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
	<i>(8/20/2010) Luberski, Inc.</i>	<i>Shell eggs</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
	<i>(8/25/2010) Trafficanda Egg Ranch</i>	<i>Shell eggs</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>

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8/17/2010	(8/27/2010) Sparboe Farms NY Fish, Inc.	Shell eggs Smoked Herring		Salmonella Clostridium	0 0	10 1
8/18/2010	Umpqua Dairy	Milk products, orange juice, fruit drinks		Salmonella	23	3
8/19/2010	Austinuts Wholesale, Inc. (8/20/2010) Glorybee Foods, Inc.	Pistachio kernel products Whole raw pistachios		Salmonella Salmonella	0 0	1 2
8/19/2010	Snow White Food Products, Inc.	Alfalfa sprouts		Salmonella	0	1
8/20/2010**	Hillandale Farms (8/20/2010) NuCal Foods (8/23/2010) Moark	Shell eggs Shell eggs Shell eggs	170,000,000 eggs	Salmonella Salmonella Salmonella	0 0 0	14 2 2
8/24/2010	Azteca Linda Corp.	Queso fresco and queso hebra		Listeria	0	2
8/27/2010	Quesiria Chipilo	Cheese products		Listeria	0	5
8/30/2010	Morningland Dairy	Cheese	68,957 lbs.	Staphylococcus and Listeria	0	51

**Recalls:**

85

**Companies affected:**

153

**Reported**

**Illnesses:**

1850

\*272 cases of illness were reported for a product containing both Wholesome Spice and Mincing Overseas Spice Company ingredients.

\*\*1,470 cases of illness were reported overall during the outbreak of Salmonella from Wright County Egg and Hillandale Farms eggs.

### Type of Microbial Contamination

### Total number of related recalls

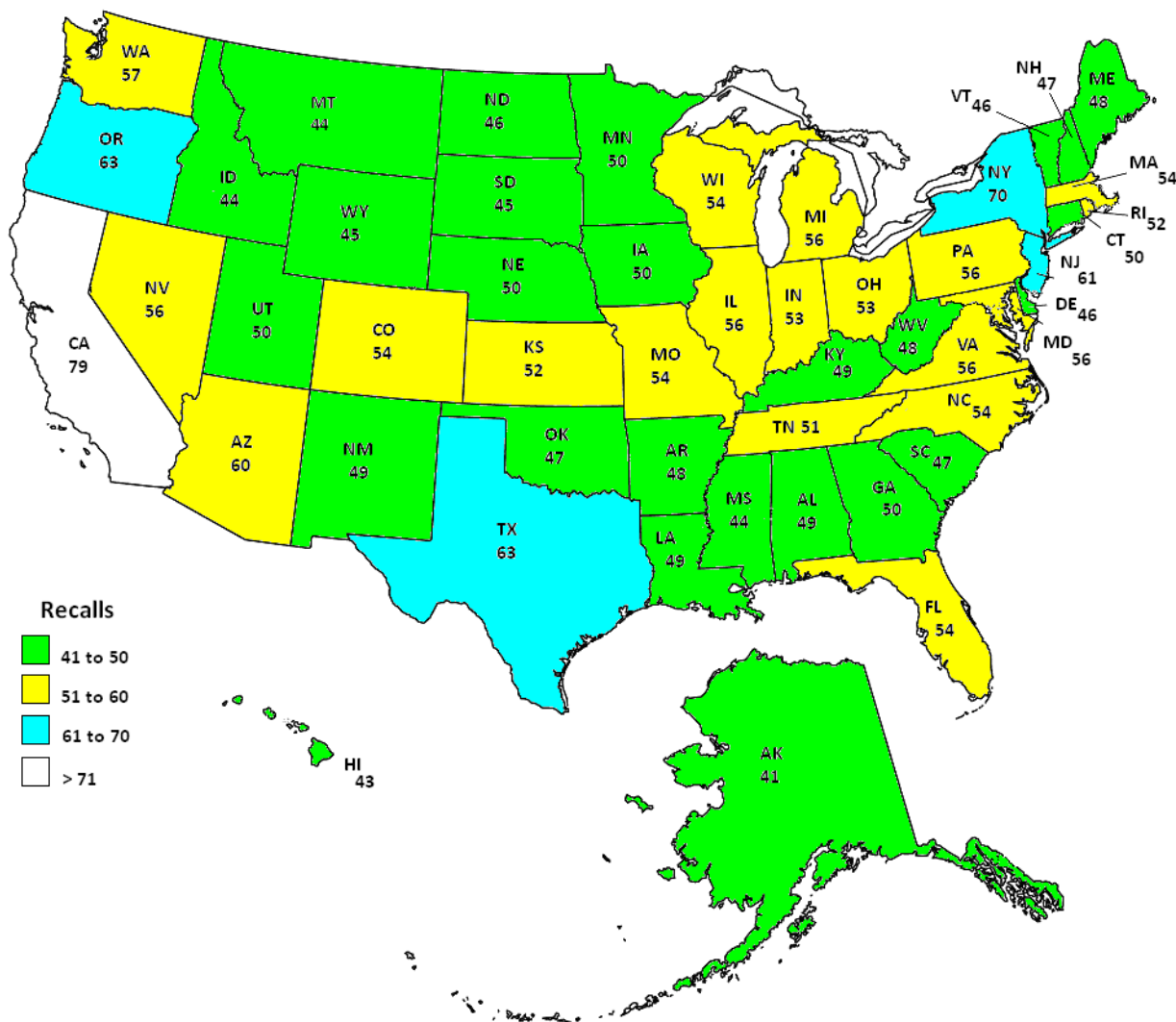
Salmonella	36
Listeria	32
Clostridium	8
E. Coli	3
Packaging defect - may contain bacteria	2
Staphylococcus	2
Manufacturing defect	1
Histamine	1
Bacillus cereus	1

### Total instances of microbial contamination:

86

\*There are 85 recalls and 86 counts of microbial contamination due to the Morningland Dairy recall (8/30/2010) involving both Listeria and Staphylococcus.

## States Affected by Recalls



**ABOUT CSPI:** The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) is a nonprofit health-advocacy group based in Washington, D.C., that focuses on nutrition and food safety. CSPI is supported largely by the 850,000 U.S. and Canadian subscribers to its *Nutrition Action Healthletter* and by foundation grants.

**ABOUT U.S. PIRG:** U.S. PIRG, the federation of state Public Interest Research Groups, is a non-profit, non-partisan public interest advocacy organization.

**ABOUT CFA:** Consumer Federation of America is an association of nearly 300 nonprofit consumer organizations that was established in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education.

