Food Safety Practices and Technologies Used by U.S. Poultry Slaughter Plants: Results of a National Mail Survey

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1. Introduction

The poultry slaughter industry is characterized by large plants, producing meat of the ordinary (broiler) type and small plants, producing meat of the fast-growing turkey (chicken) type. Small plants are more likely to produce inputs to further processing by another plant. Large and small plants are more likely to conduct some traditional microbiological testing and conduct APC testing (an indicator of microbial growth), but small plants are less likely to produce product that is before the stage of final processing.