



July 11, 2020

Dr. Philip Bronstein, Assistant Administrator  
Dr. Dawn Sprouls, District 25 Manager  
Office of Field Operations  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dear Drs. Bronstein and Sprouls,

We hope this letter finds you well. This is to inform you that *Balantidium coli* has been identified in two pigs surrendered to PETA on June 26, 2020, from Pig Hill Co. in Alvord, IA, a farm that supplies Hormel Foods, Prestage Foods, and Swift Pork Company processing plants in Iowa.

The pigs were apparently born in Big Stone City, South Dakota, and were certainly raised at Alons Nursery in Larchwood, Iowa, both of which are owned by Pig Hill Co. According to the owner, Dwight Mogler, his company handles pigs through the farrowing, feeder, and finishing processes and then markets finished pigs to Hormel, Prestage, and Swift. The two pigs are currently being quarantined at an animal sanctuary in New York, and *B. coli* was identified by a [fecal test](#) conducted by the sanctuary's veterinarian.

As you know, humans can become infected by eating and drinking contaminated food and water that have come into contact with infective animal or human fecal matter. In humans, *B. coli* infection can cause diarrhea and dysentery and, in more severe cases, perforation of the colon. Extraintestinal lesions from *B. coli* have been reported and include lung and bone infections. Anyone working with pigs who came from this facility—as well as family members of these workers and consumers who eat the undercooked flesh of infected animals—will be at higher risk of exposure.

We wanted to alert you to these findings.

Please let us know if you require further information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Monica Bando, MS., B.V.Sc., Ph.D., M.R.C.V.S.  
PETA Foundation

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