

The Most Contaminated Poultry Plants in the U.S. June 2026 Report

This evaluation of the most contaminated poultry plants in the U.S. is based on data from the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which posts the category status of individual plants based on *Salmonella* test results. The FSIS category definitions are as follows:

- **Category 1:** These are the best performing plants that have achieved 50 percent or less of the maximum allowable percent positive for *Salmonella* during the most recent one year window.
- **Category 2:** These are average performing plants that meet the maximum allowable percent positive but have some results greater than 50 percent of the maximum allowable percent positive for *Salmonella*.
- **Category 3:** **These are the worst performing plants, with results that exceed the maximum allowable percent positive for *Salmonella*. This designation means the conditions at these plants make it very difficult to control *Salmonella* contamination.**

The plants included in the chart have been in Category 3 for most, if not all, of the past six months, meaning there is a higher risk of a *Salmonella* outbreak originating from one of these plants. Note that outbreaks can originate from plants in any category. **Since our last report, 28 plants have been removed from the list and there have been six new additions.**

Chicken Slaughter and Processing Explained

This [infographic](#) from the National Chicken Council provides an explanation of how chickens are slaughtered and processed for meat. The process can be summarized in four major steps:

1. **Receiving and slaughter.** Chickens arrive at the plant from the farm where they are rendered unconscious and slaughtered.
2. **Cleaning and Evisceration.** This part of the process is highly automated where machines remove feathers, internal organs, and feet, and carcasses are washed and inspected by the USDA. Chickens are tested for bacteria, like *Salmonella*.
3. **Processing and Preparation.** Carcasses are cut and deboned to become different products – chicken breasts, drumsticks, thighs, and wings. Chickens also may be cooked in the plant or sent to another plant to be made into other products such as nuggets, patties and frozen meals.
4. **Packaging and shipping.** Chicken products are packaged, bagged or boxed. These products cannot leave the plant without being inspected by USDA. Finally, the chicken is shipped in a refrigerated truck to grocery stores, restaurants or distribution centers.

This chart on the most contaminated poultry plants uses USDA product type designations for the *Salmonella* test results. Therefore, ‘young chicken carcasses’ or ‘young turkey carcasses’ refers to the plants that conduct slaughtering, cleaning and evisceration. The ‘chicken parts’ or ‘comminuted’ (typically ground product) designations refer to the plants that conduct processing and preparation. For plants that do both slaughter and processing, the segment of the plant in Category 3 is listed while the other product type not in that category is designated in parentheses.

What Consumers Can Do

- Wash your hands in warm soapy water throughout the cooking process – before prepping, after handling raw meat, and again when finished. Also wash knives used on meat before using them to cut other foods.
- Use separate cutting boards for meat and other food products.
- Cook poultry to an internal temperature of **165° F** and use a meat thermometer to check.
- While shopping at the grocery store, keep raw meats in a disposable bag, away from other foods, especially ones you're likely to eat without cooking like fruits and vegetables.
- In the refrigerator, store raw meat in a bag or bowl to prevent leaking.
- Thaw frozen meat in the refrigerator so that it stays below 40° F. Doing so will impede the growth of bacteria.
- Avoid rinsing raw meat because it can spread bacteria around your sink or counter.

Bird Flu Implications

It is highly unlikely that chickens or turkeys with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) would make it to a slaughter plant and be processed into human food. Given its virulence, animals die quickly if contracted with HPAI and the virus spreads rapidly within a farm. As a result, farmers immediately destroy entire flocks if HPAI is detected to prevent further spread and before any birds are shipped to slaughter plants.

However, low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) (specifically [H9N2](#)) has the potential of increasing the risk of *Salmonella* contamination because chickens infected with both LPAI and *Salmonella* will shed more *Salmonella* and thus increase the chance of contamination of other birds in the flock. Also, the potential exists for LPAI (specifically [A\(H5\) and A\(H7\)](#)) viruses to evolve into HPAI.

The Most Contaminated Poultry Plants in the U.S.

(based on sample collections through March 28, 2026)

Plant Name	Product Types/Brands
Alabama	
Bachoco OK Foods Albertville, AL USDA Plant ID Number(s): M21838+P21838	Chicken parts Product list available here .
Arkansas	
Cargill Meat Solutions Springdale, AR USDA Plant ID Number(s): M13289+P963	Comminuted turkey Cargill turkey brands available here . (Young turkey carcasses)*
California	
Adesa International Ontario, CA USDA Plant ID Number(s): M44127+P44127	Chicken parts No information readily available on products.
Foster Farms Fresno, CA USDA Plant ID Number(s): P6137A	Chicken parts Product list available here . (Young chicken carcasses.)*
Diestel Turkey Ranch Turlock, CA USDA Plant ID Number(s): M18909+P157	Comminuted turkey Product list available here . (Young turkey carcasses.)*
Heatherfield Foods Ontario, CA USDA Plant ID Number(s): M4846+P4846	Comminuted chicken Product list available here .
Pitman Farms (Chicken) Sanger, CA USDA Plant ID Number(s): M27389+P27389+V27389	Young chicken carcasses, comminuted chicken List of brands available here . (Chicken parts)*
The 29ers Provisions Vernon, CA USDA Plant ID Number(s): M18994+P18994	Comminuted chicken No information readily available on products.
Wholesum Foods, LLC South El Monte, CA USDA Plant ID Number(s): M48209+P48209	Chicken parts No information readily available on products.

Plant Name	Product Types/Brands
Delaware	
Perdue Foods Georgetown, DE USDA Plant ID Number(s): P2178	Comminuted chicken List of Perdue products here . (Young chicken carcasses, chicken parts)*
Florida	
Pride Enterprise Food Products Raiford, FL USDA Plant ID Number(s): M18506+P18506	Comminuted chicken No information readily available on products. (Comminuted turkey)*
Georgia	
Edmunds Foods Dahlonega, GA USDA Plant ID Number(s): P34084	Chicken parts No information readily available on products.
Mulberry Farms Gainesville, GA USDA Plant ID Number(s): M12604+P12604	Comminuted chicken No information readily available on products.
VF America LLC Statham, GA USDA Plant ID Number(s): M21200+P21200	Chicken parts No information readily available on products.
Illinois	
Best Chicago Meat Company Chicago, IL USDA Plant ID Number(s): M1791+P27353	Comminuted chicken Product list available here . (Chicken parts, comminuted turkey)*
Wabash Poultry Processing Forrest, IL USDA Plant ID Number(s): P46248A	Young chicken carcasses No information readily available on products.
Indiana	
Perdue Foods (Turkey processing) Washington, IN USDA Plant ID Number(s): P286	Comminuted turkey Perdue turkey product list available here (Young turkey carcasses)*
Kentucky	
Misty Lea Farm Poultry Processing Pembroke, KY USDA Plant ID Number(s): P40345	Young chicken carcasses No information readily available on products. (Chicken parts, comminuted chicken)*

Plant Name	Product Types/Brands
Maryland	
Holly Poultry Baltimore, MD USDA Plant ID Number(s): M1305+P1305+V1305	Chicken parts List of products available here .
IHSAN Farms* Princess Anne, MD USDA Plant ID Number(s): P46897	Young chicken carcasses, chicken parts List of retail distributors available here .
Locust Point Farms* Elkton, MD USDA Plant ID Number(s): P39915+V39915	Young chicken, chicken parts, comminuted chicken List of products available here .
Massachusetts	
Catelli Brothers Sutton, MA USDA Plant ID Number(s): M8466+P8466	Chicken parts More information available here .
Michigan	
Otto's Poultry Middleville, MI USDA Plant ID Number(s): P32143	Chicken parts Direct-to-consumer sales. (Young chicken carcasses)*
Michigan Turkey Producers Co-op Wyoming, MI USDA Plant ID Number(s): M20935+P20935	Comminuted turkey List of products available here . (Young turkey carcasses)*
Minnesota	
J&B Wholesale Distributing St. Michael, MN USDA Plant ID Number(s): M15805+P15805+V15805	Chicken parts Product catalog available here .
Missouri	
Butterball (Turkey) Carthage, MO USDA Plant ID Number(s): M8727+P8727+V8727	Comminuted turkey List of products available here .
New Jersey	
B&B Poultry Co. LLC Norma, NJ USDA Plant ID Number(s): P794	Chicken parts List of products available here . (Comminuted chicken)*

Plant Name	Product Types/Brands
Martin's Specialty Sausage Co Mickleton, NJ USDA Plant ID Number(s): M5351+P5351	Comminuted chicken List of products available here . (Comminuted turkey)*
Vineland Poultry, LLC Vineland, NJ USDA Plant ID Number(s): M744+P744	Young chicken carcasses No information readily available on products.
<i>New York</i>	
La Belle Farm Ferndale, NY USDA Plant ID Number(s): P19150+V19150	Young chicken carcasses, chicken parts List of products available here .
Pelleh Poultry Corp. Swan Lake, NY USDA Plant ID Number(s): M44121+P44121	Young chicken carcasses List of products available here . (Chicken parts, comminuted chicken)*
White Lake Foods Ferndale, NY USDA Plant ID Number(s): M48281+P48281+V48281	Young chicken carcasses No information readily available on products. (Chicken parts)*
<i>North Carolina</i>	
Butterball Mount Olive, NC USDA Plant ID Number(s): M7345+P7345	Comminuted turkey List of products available here . (Young turkey carcasses)*
Butterball Raeford, NC USDA Plant ID Number(s): M46870+P46870	Comminuted turkey List of products available here . (Young turkey carcasses)*
Perdue Rockingham, NC USDA Plant ID Number(s): P1243	Comminuted chicken. List of Perdue products here . (Young chicken carcasses, chicken parts)*
Union Foods Rocky Mount, NC USDA Plant ID Number(s): M34371+P34371	Chicken parts No information readily available on products.
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	
Al-Kawthar Poultry Stevens, PA USDA Plant ID Number(s): P48466	Young chicken carcasses No information readily available on products.
David Elliot Poultry Farm, Inc. Scranton, PA USDA Plant ID Number(s): M7559+P134+V7559	Young chicken carcasses, chicken parts List of products and store locator available here .

Plant Name	Product Types/Brands
Rhode Island	
Baffoni's Poultry Farm Johnston, RI USDA Plant ID Number(s): P9378+V9378	Young chicken carcasses List of products available here .
Cola Foods Cranston, RI USDA Plant ID Number(s): M5268+P5268	Comminuted chicken List of brands available here .
South Carolina	
Palmetto Pigeon Plant Sumter, SC USDA Plant ID Number(s): P211	Young chicken carcasses No information readily available on products.
Vital Foods Abbeville, SC USDA Plant ID Number(s): M18237+P18237	Comminuted chicken No information readily available on products. (Chicken parts)*
South Dakota	
Dakota Provisions - West Huron, SD USDA Plant ID Number(s): M46205+P46205+V46205	Comminuted turkey Sells to foodservice operators and private-label retailers. More info here .
Texas	
Buckhead Meat & Seafood of Houston Houston, TX USDA Plant ID Number(s): M10+P7212+V10	Chicken parts Foodservice customers include restaurants, hotels, schools, government.
Greener Pastures Chicken Elgin, TX USDA Plant ID Number: P1978	Young chicken carcasses Products distributed to select Texas-area grocery stores and can be ordered online.
J & Q Food (Doing business as Evergreen Poultry) Fort Worth, TX USDA Plant ID Number(s): M45457+P45457	Chicken parts No information readily available on products.
Patterson TMP Operating, LLC Fort Worth, TX USDA Plant ID Number(s): M34715+P34715	Chicken parts List of products available here .
Syracuse Food Group LLC Ponder, TX USDA Plant ID Number(s): M2933+P2933+V2933	Comminuted chicken Sells sausage and meatball products to foodservice operators.

Plant Name	Product Types/Brands
Windy Meadows Family Farm Campbell, TX USDA Plant ID Number(s): P44992	Chicken parts More information available here . (Young chicken carcasses)*
Utah	
Pitman Farms Inc. (Moroni turkey processing) Moroni, UT USDA Plant ID Number(s): M751+P1049	Comminuted turkey List of brands available here . (Young turkey carcasses)*
Vermont	
Westminster Meat Packing, Inc. Westminster, VT USDA Plant ID Number(s): M46498+P46498	Young chicken carcasses No information readily available on products.
Virginia	
Cargill Meat Solutions (Turkey products) Dayton, VA USDA Plant ID Number(s): P18	Comminuted turkey Cargill turkey brands available here . (Young turkey carcasses)*
James River Correctional Center State Farm, VA USDA Plant ID Number(s): M31843+P31843	Comminuted chicken No information readily available on products.
Washington	
Perdue Foods LLC Mt. Vernon, WA USDA Plant ID Number(s): P6058	Young chicken carcasses (Chicken parts)*

* Represents other segment(s) of a plant that are not in Category 3.