

Ways to prevent E. coli in Humans

1. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.
2. Use only portable water in food production; consume only potable water.
3. Prevent sick persons (especially with diarrhea) from handling foods.
4. Prevent cross-contamination of heat-treated foods.
5. Avoid eating in areas that could be contaminated with animal feces.
6. Do not use organic waste or fecally-contaminated water on ready-to-eat foods.
7. Control the entry of rodents, insects and birds to food preparations areas.
8. Cook meat thoroughly until 72°C in the centre.



Ensure that meat is properly cooked and wash hands properly before handling food.

Veterinary Services Division MANDATE

- Keeping exotic diseases out of Jamaica
- Safeguarding the Livestock Industry
- Facilitating Trade
- Improving Public Health
- Enhancing Food Safety
- Promoting Animal Welfare

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

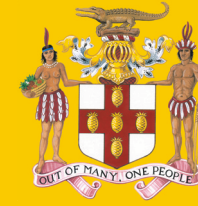
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE
AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

VETERINARY SERVICES DIVISION
193 Old Hope Road
Hope Gardens
Kingston 6, Jamaica

Phone: (876) 977-2489; 977-2492

Fax: (876) 977-0885

E-mail: vsd@moa.gov.jm



Ministry of Agriculture
and Fisheries

VETERINARY SERVICES DIVISION



E-COLI IN FARM ANIMALS

"Ensuring healthy animals for a healthier you"

PUBLIC HEALTH

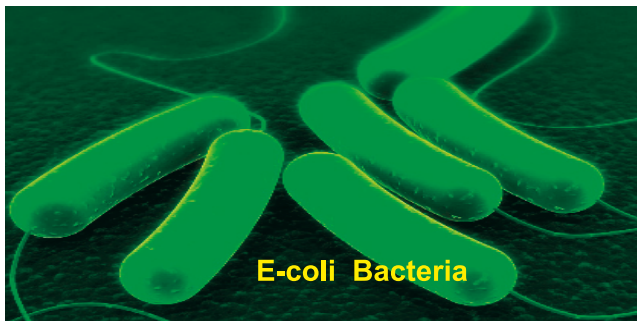
AND FOOD

SAFETY

What is Escherichia coli ?

Escherichia coli (Esh-e-rik-E-a coe-lie) is an in-testinal bacteria that produces toxins which lead to diarrhea and other intestinal conditions in animals.

There are many different types of *E. coli* bacteria. Some types of *E. coli* are normally found in the intestine of animals but do not cause illness.



E. coli O157:H7

This is a serious type of *E. coli* that causes food-borne outbreaks in humans, resulting in diarrhea and sometimes death. Cattle can harbor the bacteria, but it does not always cause disease.

What animals get E. coli?

- Cattle (main carriers)
- Sheep
- Goats
- Pigs

How animals get E. coli ?

- Ingesting (oral) the bacteria in the feces of infected animals
- Exposure to items contaminated with feces (e.g., food, or water)
- Exposure to non-living objects (fomites)
- Humans - eating meat, animal products (meat, dairy etc.) or vegetables contaminated with feces from such infected animals



Diarrhoea and dehydration in a calf.

Pigs

- Profuse, watery diarrhea with rapid dehydration, and death is common.
- Rapid collapse and death (rare)

Cattle, Sheep and Goats

- Diarrhea or "scours"
- Dullness
- Refusal to eat or drink milk
- Dehydration, weakness and death

How can I protect my animal from E.coli ?

- Prevent faeces contamination of feed and water.
- Remove feces, wash and disinfect feed and water troughs daily.
- Wash and sanitize pens daily.
- Dispose of animal waste properly.
- Wash hands properly after disposal of animal waste.
- Remove sick animals and place in an isolated area away from other animals.
- Increase resistance to infection by providing good nutrition to the dam and calf or lamb by feeding more than 5% of their body weight of high-quality colostrum within 6 hours of birth.
- Contact a licensed veterinarian if your animal is having diarrhea as soon as possible.

