Food Product Recalls

What is a Food Recall?

A food recall is a voluntary action taken by a company to remove its product from market shelves if the product has a problem.

There are three types of product recalls.

- **Class I recall:** Use of the product will likely cause serious illness or death.

- **Class II recall:** Use of the product may cause temporary or reversible health effects or there is only a remote chance of serious health effects.

- **Class III recall:** Use of the product is not likely to cause any serious health effects.

Two agencies handle food product recalls.

USDA handles recalls related to meat, poultry and eggs.

FDA is responsible for all other food products such as frozen dinners, casseroles, canned foods, fruits and vegetables and any processed product like bakery goods, dressings, cheeses and snacks.
Where do we find out about product recalls?

Television

Newspapers

Grocery Stores

How do you know if you have recalled product?

- Check the package date.
- Check the lot numbers.
- Check the package codes.

What can you do if you have a recalled product? DO NOT EAT IT!

Follow directions given in the recall notice. These may include:
- Taking it back to the store where you purchased it.
- Throwing it away.
- Calling the company hotline listed in the recall notice.

For more help with meat, poultry and egg products, call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854).

For more help with other food products, call the FDA district office consumer complaint coordinator. In Georgia, the number is 404-253-1169.