### "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION







(949) 631-7348

# TOP SECRET

July 2014

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#### What You Don't Know Can Kill You!

## 574 Illnesses Linked To Salmonella In Chicken

Hundreds and perhaps even thousands of antibiotic-resistant Salmonella illnesses have been linked to a chicken producer in California. The Centers for Disease Control says that 50 new illnesses have been reported in the last two months, bringing the total to 574 who have become sick since March 2013. Meanwhile, none of the company's products have been recalled.

Seventy-seven percent of those sickened were in California. Illnesses were also reported in 27 other states and Puerto Rico, along with a few other cases on the East Coast, Alaska and Hawaii.

These outbreaks of Salmonella are nothing new to this chicken producer as this company has also been linked to similar outbreaks in 2004 and 2012.

During inspections of this company, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has documented that they found fecal material on carcasses, poor sanitary dressing practices, insanitary food contact surfaces, insanitary nonfood contact surfaces and direct product contamination. In January of 2014, one of the company's plants was closed after inspectors found cockroaches.

The company stated that they have put new measures in place to protect the public, including tighter screening of

birds, better safety on farms where the birds are raised and improved sanitation in its plants.

Recalls of poultry contaminated with Salmonella are no simple matter because of the following reasons:

- a. Salmonella is very prevalent in poultry and our current laws allow raw chicken to have a certain amount of this bacterium.
- b. Officials say that if consumers handle and cook poultry properly, the Salmonella will be killed.
- c. Our government has not declared Salmonella as an adulterant, or illegal in meat, as is E. coli.
- d. Outbreaks of Salmonella in poultry can take longer to discover and it often takes even more time to demand a recall

### What Are The Symptoms Of Salmonella Poisoning?

Salmonella infection is usually caused by eating raw or undercooked meat, poultry, eggs or egg products. The incubation period ranges from several hours to two days. Some of the signs and symptoms are nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, fever, chills, headache and blood in the stool.

To diagnose if Salmonella is the cause of illness, lab tests are conducted on a person's stool sample to see if Salmonella is present. Once it is identified as the cause, further testing can determine the specific type.

(turn the page)

#### 100 Years Ago...

World War I began on July 28, 1914. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in history with more than **nine million combatants killed**. The war lasted for more than four years and ended on November 11, 1918.

"I was dyslexic, I had no understanding of schoolwork whatsoever. I certainly would have failed IQ tests. And it was one of the reasons I left school when I was 15 years old. And if I - if I'm not interested in something, I don't grasp it."

Sir Richard Branson, born July 18, 1950

#### Rave Reviews!

"As a master home inspector with over 25 years of experience, I have had the opportunity to interact with many other inspectors who are specialists in their field. Among these is "Termite" Terry, who I have been confidently referring to my own clients since 1994. His knowledge and competency are complimented by the way he does business.

I can trust that when I refer Terry to my clients, he will take the time to perform a thorough and complete termite inspection. I know that he will provide accurate and honest estimates, and that he will use only the most qualified people in completing the work.

He is a pleasure to work with, and has always shown the utmost respect for my clients and others. He is a person of high integrity who takes great pride in his work, and it shows."

Steve Garcia Inspections Huntington Beach (714) 264-5071

"I had my house tented for termites a few weeks ago. The inspection was excellent and they took the time to really examine my home. The day of the fume they were on time and did a fantastic job. They are so thorough. When I returned home, the tent was off and I could go in the house. We walked in the kitchen and realized we had left our spices in the cupboard and did not bag them. BUT – The Termite Terry Crew did it for us! I also left my cream in the fridge. When I opened up the fridge to put our groceries away, the cream had been bagged as well. How very thoughtful of them to take care of the things we forgot. I recommend them 150%. Thank you termite Terry Crew – Terry, Erik and Cameron for taking such GREAT care of us!"

Jane Cusick Number Crunchers Bookkeeping Fountain Valley (714) 963-9347 Most Salmonella infections resolve in five to seven days and do not require treatment. Those patients with severe diarrhea may require rehydration with intravenous fluids. Antibiotic therapy is recommended only for patients with severe illness or those at risk of severe disease or complications, including infants, older adults and immunocompromised persons. Some Salmonella is antibiotic resistant and advanced treatments may be required.

#### How You Can Prevent Salmonella

Here some tips for preventing Salmonella poisoning:

- Always cook poultry, ground beef and eggs thoroughly.
- If you are in a restaurant and are served undercooked meat, poultry or eggs, you should always send it back to the kitchen for further cooking.
- After being in contact with raw meat or poultry, you should immediately wash your hands, kitchen work surfaces and utensils with soap and water.
- Be particularly careful with foods prepared for infants, the elderly and the immunocompromised.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after handling rodents, reptiles, birds, or baby chicks, and after contact with pet feces.
- Infants or immunocompromised persons should avoid direct or even indirect contact with rodents and reptiles (turtles, iguanas, other lizards, snakes, etc.).
- Never work with raw poultry or meat, and an infant (e.g., feed, change diaper) at the same time.
- A mother's milk is the safest food for young infants. Breastfeeding prevents salmonellosis and many other health problems.

Termite Terry wants to remind you it is very important that you keep your home or business free of roaches, mice and rats. Termite Terry says, "You wouldn't believe the number of homes we see with piles of rodent droppings in their attics. In a lot of cases, we

even see rodents nesting in heating and air condition systems. This is so unhealthy and dangerous because every time someone turns on the heater or A/C, all of the dust filled with particles of rodent droppings and urine is being pumped throughout their home and their family and pets are inhaling it.

Roaches are a big problem, too. Not only do they spread diseases like salmonella, roaches are a very significant cause of many asthma cases.

Have a problem with mice, rats or roaches? Call our office at (949) 631-7348 and schedule a FREE pest audit, now! You'll get a lot of valuable information and you'll learn how you can protect your family and pets.

## Tree-Killing Beetle Invades California

Some trees in California are becoming so weak that they are toppling over. Other trees are now literally filled with jelly, their insides are completely digested. These trees and countless others have become victims of a new pest to our area; the "polyphagous shot hole borer".

The polyphagous shot hole borer is a type of ambrosia beetle. The female of this species is black in color, the male is brown and both are smaller than a sesame seed (0.1 inch in length).

These pests do not eat wood. Instead, they drill circular tunnels toward the heart of the tree. They carry fungal spores in their mouths and sow them like seeds as they go. The larvae of the beetles will later harvest and feed on the fungus.

This fungus destroys the food and water conducting system of the tree, eventually causing stress and dieback. The Box Elder, Castor bean, Avocado, English Oak, California coast live oak, Big leaf maple, Liquidambar, Coral tree, Titoki tree, California sycamore and Blue Palo Verde, are just a few of the hundreds of tree species known to be attacked by the polyphagous shot hole borer.

An entomologist at UC Riverside, Richard Stouthamer, used genetic analysis to trace the beetle's origin to Vietnam. No one is sure of how the beetles made their way to the U.S..

Experts want to contain this invasive pest before it spreads throughout California. The beetles have already spread through Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside Counties.

At this time, there is no known treatment to eradicate this pest. Officials from the Department of Food and Agriculture, the California Avocado Commission, UC Riverside scientists and others gathered recently in Sacramento to review the latest intelligence and discuss how to deal with the problem.

#### How Insects Are Used To Solve Crimes

Crime scene investigators are learning all kinds of new tricks to catch criminals and in this article we'd like to share some of the methods they use to solve crimes with insects.

Let's say a person is lying dead in a thick wooded area. If the investigator sees a slew of blue-green looking flies on the body, he knows that they are always first on the scene. These flies usually arrive within five to ten minutes and can smell death from ten miles away.

The insect population on the body will change as minutes turn to hours, turn to days and then to weeks and months. Flies, beetles and mites will come and go. The type of insect found is dependent on surrounding conditions, including temperature and climate. Some types of insects will feed on the corpse, and others come to lay eggs which will hatch and later

become larvae.

When a suspicious death occurs, investigators can examine insect activity on the corpse and use it to determine post mortem interval (PMI). PMI is the estimated time that has elapsed since a person has died

Insect samples from the crime scene are collected and taken to a lab for further examination. PMI is determined by comparing their findings with databases that detail insect populations at various stages of development and assorted conditions.

The more species that are present the better. This is because overlapping data will provide researchers with statistical confidence and precision in the estimated time of death.

In some suspicious death cases, insect evidence may prove that the body was moved at some time after death. Some insects live in quite specific niches, such as on limited vegetation types, at certain elevations, or in particular climates. If the body yields an insect not known to live in the area, this can be prime evidence that the body was moved.

In cases where they suspect a person may have died but the body is missing, forensic experts know that a dead body lying on the ground will release all of its fluids into the soil below. This causes native soil organisms to leave the area as the pH rises and a whole new community of insects will inhabit this gruesome niche. This evidence can then be used to prove the exact location of death.

These are only a few of the many ways that insects are used to solve crimes. Crime scene investigations . . . are you ready for a new career? ©

Fun Facts About The Tour de France

The Tour de France is an annual bicycle race that is primarily held in France. This year's event will be especially interesting because the race will be starting in Leeds, West Yorkshire, England and will go through London before returning to France. The riders will cover 2,272 miles during the 23 day event. Here are some fun facts about the Tour de France:

- The first Tour de France was held on July 1, 1903. Maurice Garin, of Italy, dominated the event.
- Riders in the event burn an average of 5,900 calories per day.
- The oldest rider to win the event was 36 year old Firmin Lambot, of Belgium, in 1922.
- Lance Armstrong holds the record as the only rider to have won the Tour seven times. He was later disqualified from all those races and banned from competitive cycling.
- Four racers have died while competing in the Tour.
- They estimate that over 15 million people will line the route to watch during the three week race.
- Henri Cornet, of France, became the youngest winner of the Tour in 1904. He was two weeks shy of his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Greg LeMond became the first non-European to win the Tour in 1986.
- 1919 was the worst-ever year for the number of finishers. Only 10 out of 69 starters finished the event.
- The smallest winning margin of an event was only 8 seconds (Greg LeMond--Laurent Fignon in 1989).
- Over 25,000 security personnel will be on duty during the race.
- This year's winner will receive over \$600,000 in prize money.
- France is the country with the most wins (36), followed by Belgium (18), then Spain (12).
- Joop Zoetemelk (Netherlands) holds the record for most tours completed as a rider at 16.

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#### Millions Of Bees Swarm Highway After Truck Accident

An estimated 16 to 20 million honeybees swarmed a major highway after a truck carrying 460 hives overturned on an on-ramp. The driver reportedly did not have his truck loaded properly and he lost control when his cargo shifted while navigating the on-ramp. The truck rolled over onto the guardrail and hundreds of crates containing bee hives fell to the ground, releasing millions of swarming bees.

Police say the driver suffered a minor arm injury and that he and his two passengers suffered about 50-100 bee stings each. They were taken by ambulance to a local hospital for treatment.

For nearly an hour after the accident, the police were still unable to get any where near the truck because the bee swarms were so massive. This prompted police to call in three local beekeepers to assist. Rounding up all of the bees would have been a good choice but that may have taken days to accomplish. So, in order to remove the truck from the on-ramp in a timely manner, the beekeepers recommended that fire fighters at the scene use water from their fire hoses to disperse the swarms. The roadway remained closed for about 13 hours.

Several hundred of the bee hives were still intact after the accident. The surviving hives were reloaded and shipped to a farm where they will be used to pollinate crops. Honeybees are critical pollinators, especially for fruit growers.



"Termite" Terry Singleton