

Testing Poultry Rinses Using TEMPO® Decreases Routing Micro Testing by 50% at Fieldale Farms

Case Study
Fieldale Farms





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Context

- Headquartered in Baldwin, GA, Fieldale Farms is a privately-owned manufacturer of fresh and frozen poultry products, which are sold in retail outlets domestically and internationally. The firm has been in operation since 1972 with estimate sales exceeding \$600M USD.

Objectives & Action

- In early 2009, Fieldale Farms management contemplated approaches to improve microbiology lab efficiency. Their Objective: Explore automated techniques that would enable the lab to save time and overall costs related to testing of poultry rinses.

After meeting with representatives from bioMérieux in June 2009, Fieldale Farms agreed to evaluate the TEMPO® workflow for eight weeks against their standard Petrifilm® method. The primary routine parameters tested were Total Aerobic Count and Escherichia coli. The bioMérieux team installed a TEMPO system and trained Fieldale Farms staff in August 2009.

Key Results

- After evaluating the TEMPO solution for several months, Fieldale Farms adopted the system for its routing microbiology tests. In mid-2011, Fieldale Farms conducted a more in-depth study of the TEMPO workflow. In the study, 213 poultry rinse samples were tested for Escherichia coli using both TEMPO and Petrifilm. Not only were the results between the methods found to be greater than 95% in agreement, but also the TEMPO workflow enabled technicians to achieve 50% time savings over the Petrifilm method.

“We found that by using TEMPO® there were less dilutions to prepare, our technician gained savings with hands-on time, enumeration was automatic, and turn-around time was decreased.” – Janet Smith, Laboratory Manager, Fieldale Farms

	Time Study	
	EC Petrifilm™	TEMPO® EC
Prepare Sample	30 secs	30 secs
Prepare Dilutions	20 secs	not needed
Plate Dilutions/ Fill Cards	30 secs	6 cards/3 mins*
Incubate	23-25 hours	22-27 hours
Read	15 secs	20 cards in 2 ½ mins
Total Time for 213 Samples	~5 ½ hours	~2 ½ hours

50% Time Savings

*filling cards can be performed simultaneously with sample preparation

