

Safe₂O-RTE 03 TREATMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF MOLD GROWTH ON COUNTRY HAMS DURING STORAGE

Objective:

Determine if Safe₂O-RTE 03 treatment can prevent mold growth on country hams.

Test Protocol:

Method:

1. Blend one part of concentrated Safe₂O-RTE 03 with two parts neutral pH water (V/V).
2. Spray 50 hams approximately 16 lb per ham, with Safe₂O-RTE 03 for 5-10 sec such that the surface of the hams are wet. Likewise spray 50 control hams until the surface of each ham is wet.
3. Place treated and control hams inside plastic bag liners in combo containers.
4. Seal the tops of the bags tightly.
5. Label the combo containers accordingly and place combos in storage room per normal processing protocol.
6. Incubate at 38-40⁰F for 4-5 months
7. Check hams weekly for mold development.

Results:

Hams were visually checked every week. The control hams became moldy within the first two weeks. Whereas, mold spots 6-7 mm in diameter were not evident on the treated hams until 12 weeks post-treatment. Although the mold spots (in small numbers) were detectable at 12 weeks they did not continue to proliferate in size or number.

The hams were held past the 12 week period for an additional six weeks and the results were the same as described above.