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Dynamics of *L. monocytogenes* contamination in farmhouse cheese making

Listeria monocytogenes, which causes listeriosis, is primarily a foodborne pathogen that is widespread in the environment. Therefore, it will be found in food processing environments from where it can contaminate food. It is important that food business operators are aware of the presence of *L. monocytogenes* in the processing environment so that targeted measures can be taken to control it. This presentation will focus on process environment sampling of farmhouse cheesemaking facilities that was undertaken as part of the PROMISE project. Extensive sampling was undertaken to determine if contaminated facilities remain contaminated and presumed uncontaminated facilities remain uncontaminated. The results indicated that all facilities can be contaminated with *L. monocytogenes* and that the contamination status can be defined in order to facilitate the type of targeted action necessary to control the contamination and reduce the risk of contamination of food.