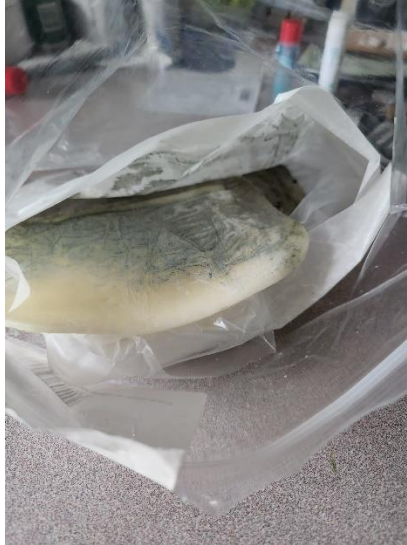


How Safe is the Food in the Grocery Store to Eat?

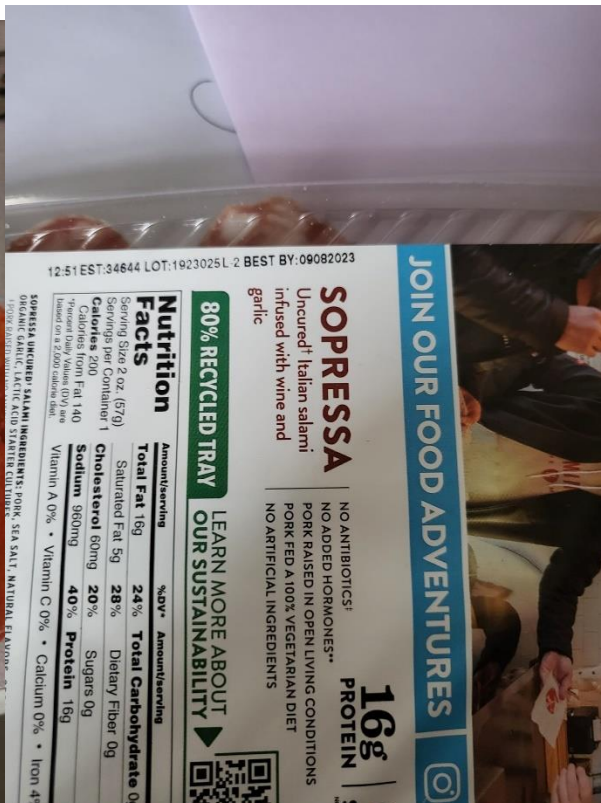


On Friday evening, Sept 22, 2023, one of our readers visited the ShopRite store in Lawrence located at 3373 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 in the evening. This morning when they went to make a sandwich with the cheese they purchased at the grab and go area (across from the deli counter in the back of the store, they had an unpleasant surprise. (see attached photos) The cheese was completely moldy throughout all the slices. Take notice of the date of expiration, and it was June 28 2023.



Our reader called the store and asked to speak to one of the managers, and he was laughing on the phone at me when they told him this story. Not appreciating the laughter, our reader asked him to take this more seriously. He stated they could get a refund.

Our reader looked at other foods they purchased, and it turns out they too were all expired. (see photos of oranges and sopressa below). Upon further review, they also found the meat and fish they purchased set to expire in one day.



When they went back to the store to speak to the manager again and share the update of more foods that had expired, they gave our reader a refund. However, they found ALL of the packaged oranges in the entire store were ALL expired. They are located both inside and outside of the store (see photos)



Our reader thought they would be “safer” getting cheese cut fresh from the deli counter. They asked the Shoprite team member to slice the cheese but asked to see the expiration date on the cheese in the deli refrigerated area. Low and behold there was not any expiration date. They cut the plastic on the brick of cheese and when that happens the dates are removed. One worker said, oh it's not that old. The woman waiting on our reader however was more conscientious. She proceeded to go in the back walk in the refrigerator to see what the date could be. What she stated she found was disturbing. The dates are removed from those as well. There is only a comment stating use in 60 days, but no one knows when that clock started ticking. Three other deli employees behind the counter also stated that the meats and cheeses at the deli counter, hardly any of them had the required dates written on a sticker on their side of the counter. This would let them know if it was expired and could be used.

This is not acceptable, any of this. We highly recommend there be a very detailed inspection of the entire store. There have been numerous times when patrons have pulled milk out of the refrigerated area at this store and told the staff, hey buddy the milk is all expired.

There is no doubt moving forward we hope this article drives all our readers to check ALL the dates on everything you purchase at grocery stores. We took a ride to two other grocery stores in the area and found the same results with the deli counters and fruit.

Where are the inspectors in Mercer County? A few months ago we reported on [Accountability.pdf \(hirstnews.com\)](#) of towns as it pertains to restaurant inspections and overall cleanliness of a town. When leaders have no expectations of their teams below them, these are the results.