

AI Can't Trace This Outbreak

13,000 cases. Zero known source. What's missing?

Swipe for insights →

THE DATA

13,000

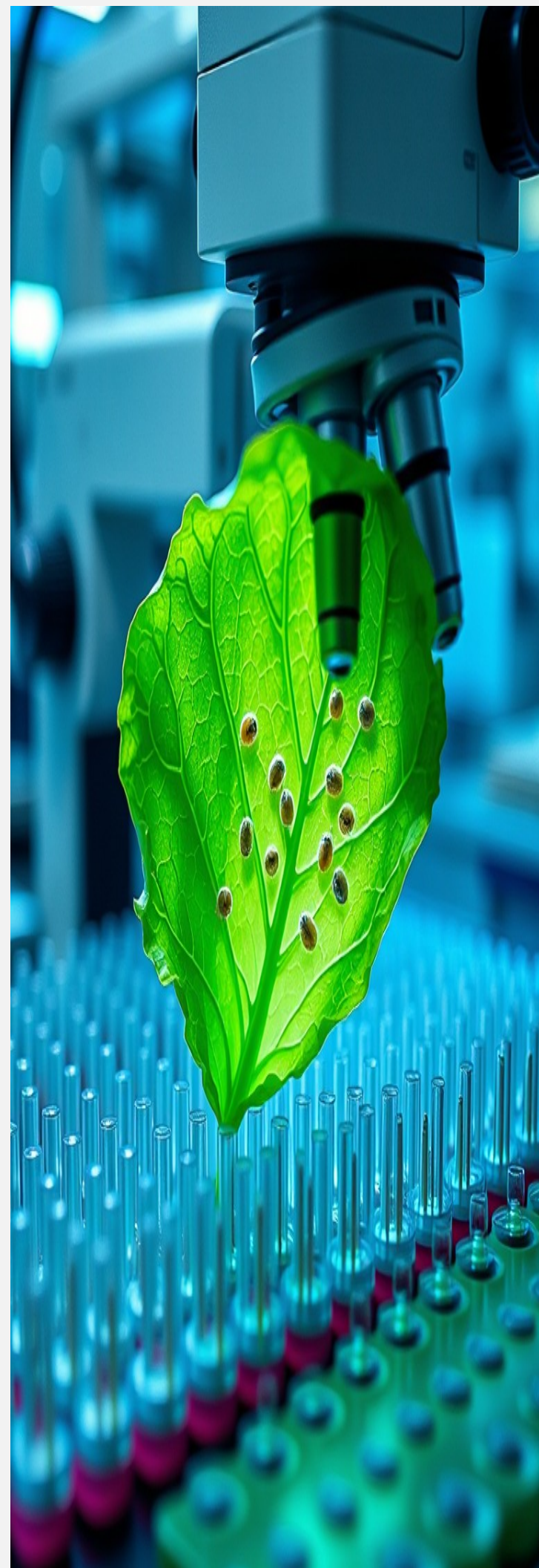
Lab-confirmed cases

The bulk of an unprecedented surge in cyclosporiasis this year, tied to a multistate iceberg lettuce outbreak.

This number represents the core of the largest recorded cyclospora outbreak in U.S. history, yet even after targeted recalls and inspections, the precise origin remains unknown. The fact that nearly 13,000 confirmed cases cannot be traced to a single source underscores a critical gap in our ability to detect and prevent foodborne contamination at scale.

Source: STAT News • Published September 11, 2026

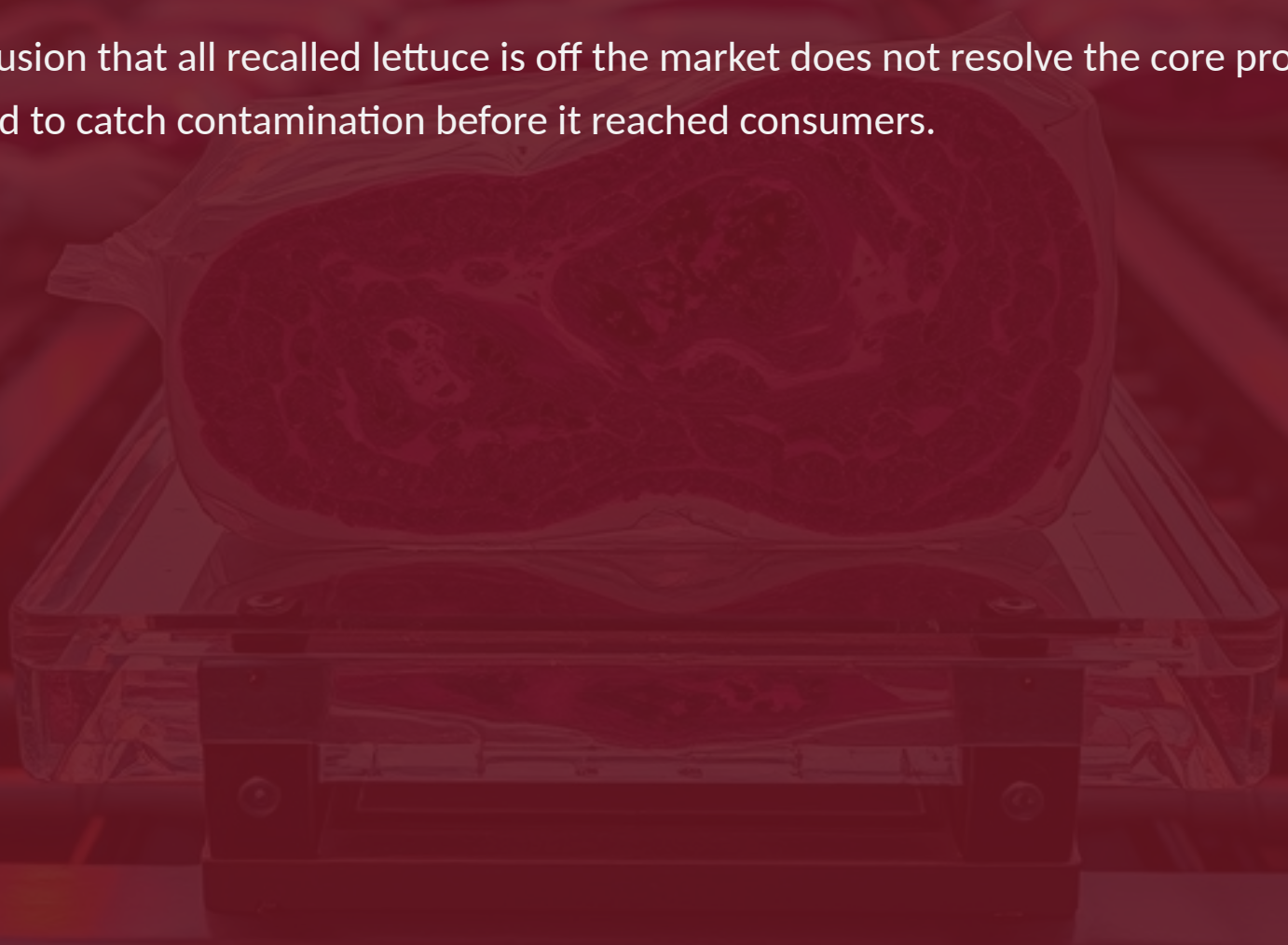
https://www.statnews.com/2026/09/11/cyclospora-outbreak-declared-over-origin-unknown/?utm_campaign=rss



01

AI Needs Ground Truth

The FDA's conclusion that all recalled lettuce is off the market does not resolve the core problem — the system failed to catch contamination before it reached consumers.



02

The Illusion of Control

In an era of AI-driven diagnostics and predictive modeling, the inability to trace a single pathogen across a supply chain reveals that our most advanced tools are only as good as our weakest data links.



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