

SUBJECT: ALFOODACT 017-2006: Fresh Spinach (to Include Mixed Salads) Contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7 Causes Outbreak (CLARIFICATION TO ALFOODACT 016-2006: Bagged Fresh Spinach Contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7 Causes Outbreak)

CLARIFICATION: This recall is for ALL United States origin fresh spinach or products containing-fresh spinach (i.e. mixed salads) whether bagged or not. Paragraph Two "BACKGROUND" includes the latest FDA Statement dated 17 September 2006. FDA advises consumers to not eat fresh spinach or fresh spinach-containing products until further notice. Canned/jarred/frozen spinach is not "Fresh" spinach.

An ALFOODACT will be initiated once Federal Agency Investigations are complete and ALL processors have been identified.

Date Issued: September 18, 2006

1. REFERENCE:

a. DLAR 4155.26/AR 40-660/NAVSUPINST 10110.8c/AFI 48-116/MCO 10110.38c, DOD Hazardous Food & Nonprescription Drug Recall System.

b. Allied Communications Publication 121, US SUPP-1 (f).

c. <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01453.html>

2. BACKGROUND : FDA Statement on Foodborne *E. coli* O157:H7 Outbreak in Spinach
Update: Sunday, September 17, 2006

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will continue to provide the public with regular updates on the *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreak each day until further notice.

Case Reports

To date, 109 cases of illness due to *E. coli* infection have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including 16 cases of Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) and one death. Illnesses continue to be reported to CDC. This is considered to be an ongoing investigation.

Symptoms of *E. coli* O157:H7 Illness

E. coli O157:H7 causes diarrhea, often with bloody stools. Although most healthy adults can recover completely within a week, some people can develop a form of kidney failure called HUS. HUS is most likely to occur in young children and the elderly. The condition can lead to serious kidney damage and even death.

States Affected

There are 19 confirmed states: California, Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Consumer Advice

FDA advises consumers to not eat fresh spinach or fresh spinach-containing products until further notice.

If individuals believe they may have experienced symptoms of illness after consuming fresh spinach or fresh spinach-containing products, FDA recommends that they seek medical advice.

Two (2) Recalls

FDA has been informed that River Ranch, of California, is recalling packages of spring mix containing spinach. River Ranch obtained bulk spring mix containing spinach from Natural Selections. The following brands are involved: Farmers Market, Hy Vee, Fresh and Easy. Products that do not contain spinach are not part of this recall.

Natural Selection Foods, LLC, of San Juan Bautista, California, is recalling all of its products

containing spinach in all brands they pack with "Best if Used by Dates" of August 17, 2006 through October 1, 2006. These products include spinach and any salad with spinach in a blend, both retail and food service products. Products that do not contain spinach are not part of this recall.

Natural Selection Foods, LLC brands include: Natural Selection Foods, Pride of San Juan, Earthbound Farm, Bellissima, Dole, Rave Spinach, Emeril, Sysco, O Organic, Fresh Point, River Ranch, Superior, Nature's Basket, Pro-Mark, Compliments, Trader Joe's, Ready Pac, Jansal Valley, Cheney Brothers, Coastline, D'Arrigo Brothers, Green Harvest, Mann, Mills Family Farm, Premium Fresh, Snoboy, The Farmer's Market, Tanimura & Antle, President's Choice, Cross Valley, and Riverside Farms.

The affected products were also distributed to Canada and Mexico. FDA continues to investigate whether other companies and brands are involved.

Lettuce Safety Initiative

The FDA developed the Lettuce Safety Initiative <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/lettsafe.html> in response to recurring outbreaks of E.coli O157:H7 in lettuce. As a result of this outbreak, the initiative has been expanded to cover spinach. The primary goals of the initiative are to reduce public health risks by focusing on the product, agents and areas of greatest concern and to alert consumers early and respond rapidly in the event of an outbreak. This initiative is based on the 2004 Produce Safety Action Plan, intended to minimize the incidence of food borne illness associated with the consumption of fresh produce.

FDA continues to work closely with the CDC and state and local agencies to determine the cause and scope of the E.coli outbreak in spinach. Please check www.fda.gov for updates.

3. PRODUCTION DATES/IDENTIFYING CODES:

All U.S. FRESH SPINACH AND PRODUCT CONTAINING FRESH SPINACH (i.e. mixed salad)

ALL BRANDS, ALL TYPES, ALL DATES, ALL SIZES

4. MANUFACTURER/FEDERAL ESTABLISHMENT:

All U.S. Manufacturers/Processors of fresh spinach and product containing fresh spinach.

5. DISTRIBUTION: Unknown

6. REASON FOR RECALL: Positive for *E. coli* O157:H7.

7. INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR MESSAGE RECIPIENTS:

(1) Immediately inventory stocks to identify the above items and secure in a "Medical Hold" status to provide assurance of no further issue/sale/use of the item.

(2) Ships at sea are authorized to destroy or dispose of recalled products at their discretion. Documentation for the number of pounds and cases, and any additional pertinent information must be signed by the Accountable Officer and is required for the purpose of recouping to the government the cost of the product involved. Information shall be forwarded by priority message to this center.

(3) Accountable Activities should return recalled product to the manufacturer through the appropriate distribution channels.

8. The Point of Contact for this ALFOODACT message is [CW4 Ramona Martin](#), Consumer Safety Officer, at DSCP-FTW. VOICE, DSN: 444-2905, Commercial (215) 737-2905, or by FAX, DSN: 444-7526, or Commercial, (215) 737-7526

Any individual or office that would like to receive recall messages electronically can forward their email address to Ramona.Martin@dla.mil.

Previous recalls and frequently asked questions are available at the following web site:

<http://www.dscp.dla.mil/subs/proserv/alfood/afamess.htm>

The navigation tool to the left allows you to view DSCP Alerts and Archived Vendor Recalls also.

Very Respectfully,

Ms. Ramona Martin

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