



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lower '48 spinach back on the menu

October 3, 2006 – Anchorage – Based on information from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) health officials give the all clear to eat spinach produced in the lower '48, which is not subject to the FDA recall. As previously reported, no health risks were identified from spinach grown in Alaska and processed spinach (e.g., frozen and canned).

Spinach grown in the California counties of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Clara was implicated in last month's E. coli O157:H7 outbreak. **Spinach from the rest of the U.S. has not been implicated and can be safely consumed.**

Natural Selection Foods LLC of San Juan Bautista, California has recalled all spinach products produced at their plant under multiple brand names with a date code of October 1 or earlier. Food from four other food processors which may have incorporated potentially affected spinach was also recalled. **Retailers and restaurateurs** should not sell raw spinach or blends that may contain spinach subject to the recalls.

"Consumers should not eat raw spinach unless they are certain of the source," said DEC Food Safety and Sanitation Program Manager Ron Klein.

For further information on the spinach recall and a complete list of recalled products, visit FDA's website at:

www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/spinach.html

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