

CAFF, November 20, 2008

The following table lists all of the *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreaks known to us that caused serious illness to two or more people and were traced to lettuce and spinach between 1993 and 2008. The table shows that all of the outbreaks since late 1999—when accurate record-keeping began at the FDA—were traced to fresh-cut bagged products.

1993-2008 Illness Outbreaks Associated with Lettuce and Spinach and E. Coli O157:H7

| Date | # sick | Type of product | Fresh-cut in bags? | Site of outbreak | Source location |
|----------------|--------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| August 1993 | 53 | Salad bar | * | WA | |
| July 1995 | 74 | Romaine, red leaf lettuce | * | MT | MT, WA |
| September 1995 | 20 | Romaine or iceberg lettuce | * | ID | |
| October 1995 | 11 | Lettuce | * | OH | |
| May 1996 | 61 | Mesclun mix lettuce | Yes | IL, CT, NY | |
| June 1996 | 7 | Mesclun mix lettuce | Yes | NY | |
| May 1998 | 2 | Salad mix | Yes | CA | |
| September 1998 | 4 | Lettuce | * | MD | |
| Feb-Mar 1999 | 72 | Iceberg lettuce | * | NE | |
| September 1999 | 8 | Romaine lettuce | * | CA | Salinas Valley |
| September 1999 | 6 | Lettuce | * | WA | Salinas Valley |
| October 1999 | 47 | Lettuce | * | OH, IN | |

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|----------------|-------|------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|------------------------|
| October 1999 | 3 | Romaine hearts | Yes | OR | Salinas Valley |
| October 1999 | 41 | Fresh cut Romaine lettuce | Yes | PA | Salinas Valley |
| July 2002 | 29 | Fresh cut Romaine lettuce | Yes | WA, ID | Salinas Valley |
| November 2002 | 24 | Fresh cut iceberg lettuce | Yes | IL, WI, MN, SD, UT | Lemoore, CA |
| September 2003 | 27/57 | Fresh cut lettuce mix with romaine | Yes | CA | Salinas Valley |
| September 2003 | 5 | Fresh cut lettuce mix with romaine | Yes | ND | CA |
| October 2003 | 16 | Fresh cut spinach | Yes | CA | Salinas Valley |
| November 2004 | 6 | Fresh cut lettuce | Yes | NJ | Salinas Valley |
| September 2005 | 23/32 | Fresh cut Romaine mix with veg. | Yes | MN, WI, OR | Salinas Valley |
| Aug-Sept 2006 | 204 | Bagged baby spinach | Yes | 26 states | San Juan Valley, CA |
| November 2006 | 71 | Fresh cut iceberg lettuce | Yes | NY, NJ, PA, DE | San Joaquin Valley, CA |
| Nov-Dec 2006 | 81 | Fresh cut iceberg lettuce | Yes | MN, IA, WI | San Joaquin Valley, CA |
| May 2008 | 10 | Fresh cut romaine lettuce | Yes | WA | Salinas Valley |
| September 2008 | 45 | Fresh cut iceberg lettuce | Yes | MI, IL, OH | CA |

* unknown whether fresh-cut or whole-fresh

Source: Combined data from: CAFF analysis of FDA data; the Minnesota Department of Health presentation on the Taco John outbreak (Meyer, 2007); Dan Cohen email communication with Jack Guzewich, Acting Director of FDA/CFSAN division of Public Health and Biostatistics; Bill Marler; Center for Science in the Public Interest; Centers for Disease Control; CA Dept of Public Health. Lettuce hearts are included in fresh-cut.

Other Relevant Illness Outbreaks

| Year | # sick | Type of product | Pathogen | Source |
|------|--------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| 1997 | 12 | Mesclun lettuce | Cyclospora | |
| 1997 | 341 | Basil | Cyclospora | |
| 1998 | 400 | Parsley | Shigella sonnei | Mexico |
| 1999 | 59 | Basil | Cyclospora | Mexico |
| 1999 | 22 | Coleslaw (cabbage) | E. coli O157:H7 | NC |
| 2004 | 38 | Mesclun or basil | Cyclospora cay. | |
| 2004 | 57 | Mesclun or basil | Cyclospora cay. | |
| 2004 | 79 | Lettuce | Salmonella Newport | |
| 2005 | 73 | Parsley | E.coli O157:H7 | OR |
| 2005 | 592 | Basil | Cyclospora cay. | Peru |
| 2005 | 30 | Basil | Cyclospora cay. | Peru |

Source: FDA