

Food Safety Alert – 1/05/07

In article in the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* says the E. coli outbreaks across the U.S. in 2006 have galvanized producers, the federal government and consumers like never before. However, a 2004 report from the CDC's Foodborne Diseases Active Network Surveillance Network indicates that the incidence of infection from bacteria like E. coli is on the decline. Yet, the Center for Science in the Public Interest issued a report last month showing produce as the number one cause of foodborne illnesses from 1990-2004. "I don't think that foodborne illness outbreaks are on the rise, but there is a higher awareness on the part of the public," said Sue Grace, nutrition program leader and a food safety instructor at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County." Most attribute the outbreaks to a global food economy, improved tracking and reporting, genetic fingerprinting that enables us to better identify pathogens, and in increase in produce consumption. Many believe food will never be 100 percent safe because it is grown outdoors.

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007701050399>