

Food Safety Alert – 10/09/06

A third death has been confirmed as attributed to the spinach E Coli outbreak. On Friday, health officials determined that the strain of E Coli found in an 80 year-old Nebraska woman who passed away near the end of August has the same DNA fingerprint as the strain of the outbreak.

<http://www.theksbwchannel.com/news/10019824/detail.html>

The latest statistics are that the latest E Coli outbreak has resulted in 199 illnesses (102 hospitalizations) and 3 deaths.

<http://www.montereyherald.com/mld/montereyherald/news/local/15714639.htm>

In related news, The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported Sunday that the Nunes Company, which grows lettuce for Foxy, is recalling lettuce after a backup reservoir used for irrigation tested positive for E Coli. The well which is the primary source for irrigation on the farm where the lettuce is grown, was clean. 97 percent of the lettuce subject to the recall had been recovered by Sunday Afternoon. It is unsure whether the lettuce is actually tainted, the recall is based completely on the positive test results of the backup reservoir.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/10/08/BAGGHLLBD612.DTL>

According to the *Monterey County Herald*, there have been no reports of lettuce-related E Coli incidents.

<http://www.montereyherald.com/mld/montereyherald/news/local/15714639.htm>

Earthbound Farms has also voluntarily recalled their new carrot juice product because of reports that a Florida woman has been paralyzed by botulism after drinking a bottle of Wm. Bolthouse Farms (Bakersfield) carrot juice. The bottles have been sold at Costco and the EB Farms Stand Store.

<http://www.montereyherald.com/mld/montereyherald/news/local/15709268.htm>

Check Science Daily website for the latest laser and chlorine dioxide technology to protect against food-borne pathogens, which are currently being developed and tested at Purdue University.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/10/061007111551.htm>