

## Food Safety Alert – 10/27/06

A Reuters News Wire report out of San Francisco is reporting that six new samples of E. coli have been matched to the strain found in the spinach that to date has killed three and sickened 204. To date, a total of nine samples have been matched on one farm, the article reports. However, investigators continue to focus on four farms in the area of San Benito and Monterey counties. Of those six new samples, four have been traced to cattle and two were traced to a creek and a wild pig killed on the above mentioned undisclosed farm. Kevin Reilly, a deputy director with the California Department of Health Services, states that "all evidence points to this outbreak having concluded."

[http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyID=2006-10-26T222246Z\\_01\\_N26243070\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-SPINACH.xml&WTmodLoc=NewsHome-C3-domesticNews-3](http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyID=2006-10-26T222246Z_01_N26243070_RTRUKOC_0_US-SPINACH.xml&WTmodLoc=NewsHome-C3-domesticNews-3)

Another article from the Bay City News Wire appears to mirror the Reuters report. It also quotes Kevin Reilly of CDHS. Yet this article seems to point more to the wild pigs as the vehicle that transported the E. coli to the spinach farm. "I think we have good evidence" pointing to wildlife, Reilly said. Of significance, "All these findings ... have been found on the same ranch," Reilly said. "All of the specimens were between one-half mile and one mile from the spinach field."

[http://cbs5.com/localwire/localnews/bcn/2006/10/26/n/HeadlineNews/OUTBREAK-SPINACH/resources\\_bcn.html](http://cbs5.com/localwire/localnews/bcn/2006/10/26/n/HeadlineNews/OUTBREAK-SPINACH/resources_bcn.html)

There are also reports coming out of Wisconsin that there may be another outbreak of E. coli. The *Chetek Alert* is stating that people who became ill from E. coli infections may have done so at a Habitat for Humanity fund-raiser on October 19. Randy Wilson, Barron County Sanitarian says, "There were 100 tickets sold for the event, and right now we have half a dozen people who are ill. Obviously, we're still trying to get in contact with people, as we've only been able to contact a few." The article does not point to a source for the possible outbreak, nor does it confirm any positive tests for the bacteria.

[http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=17376782&BRD=1134&PAG=461&dept\\_id=150853&rfi=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=17376782&BRD=1134&PAG=461&dept_id=150853&rfi=6)