

Food Safety Alert – 11/10/06

Locally, KSBW News reported last night that that FDA testing of the Natural Selections Foods processing plant in San Juan Bautista is free of E. coli contamination. While the FDA would not confirm this, Charles Sweat of Natural Selection Foods stated that tests done by an independent lab also showed the plant to be clean. (The CDHS also said that the state has not cleared *any* processing plant as the source of the breakout.) Sweat indicated that the company is working diligently with farmers to improve field inspection practices, check seed and soil as well as doing its own further testing of all product processed at the plant.

<http://www.theksbwchannel.com/news/9957614/detail.html>

Internationally, The *Winnipeg Sun* in Canada is reporting that after a nearly two-month dry spell, California spinach is now back on the shelves. However, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has stated that this excludes San Benito and Monterey counties. Their spokesman, Rene Cardinal, stated "spinach from these two counties is still not allowed. We want some assurances that good agricultural practices will be in place by next growing season. If they are not in place then we'll maintain the restriction."

<http://winnipeg.sun.com/Business/2006/11/09/2288725-sun.html>

Nationally, while Texas only produces 9 percent of the nation's spinach, the *Southwest Farm Press* is indicating that there will be no reduction in the number of acres that Texas will into production for the leafy green this winter season. Jose Pena, professor and Extension Economist-Management, at Uvalde, Texas, says the spinach industry there has prepared guides for its workers. The document outlines "Good Agricultural Practices, which will be implemented to insure minimizing pathogen contamination in fresh market spinach production," he says.

<http://southwestfarmpress.com/news/110906-texas-spinach/>

Santa Clarita Valley's *The Signal*, reported in an article yesterday afternoon that the State Water Resource Control Board has released its most current list of California water bodies that do not meet the federally mandated quality standards of the Clean Water Act. The article names the Santa Clara River, Lake Hughes, Elizabeth Lake, Munz Lake, Piru Creek and Mint Canyon Creek. (Santa Clarita Valley stretches through Los Angeles and Ventura counties).

http://www.the-signal.com/?module=displaystory&story_id=34134&format=html

The list of Central Coast (Region 3) water bodies that do not meet CWA standards can be found here:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/docs/303dlists2006/final/r3_final303dlist.pdf

The statewide list and other regional lists can be found here:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/303d_lists2006.html