

Food Safety Alert – 11/16/06

In news out of Washington, DC, The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) is petitioning the FDA to regulate manure, water and sanitation on farms. The CSPI believes that mandatory standards and inspections could have the potential to reduce the number of outbreaks linked to E. coli. In their petition they state that the FDA already has enough applicable case law and legal authority under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to enforce greater sanitation practices on farms. They also assert that the use of raw manure as a fertilizer should be prohibited during the growing season and that composting of manure should be watched vigilantly to confirm that any pathogens are destroyed prior to use. Further, the petition asks for labeling on packages that allows you to tell which farm a product came from. (CSPI has already called on the state of California to utilize its authority saying that it could act faster than the federal government could).

<http://cspinet.org/new/200611151.html>

WRAL-TV in Raleigh, NC is reporting that the North Carolina Department of Agriculture began random testing on bags of spinach on Wednesday. (No illnesses were reported in NC in the recent outbreak). Bags of spinach from Earthbound Farms were the first to be tested – all tests came back negative. In the coming weeks, they will test Dole and Ready Pac according to the article.

<http://www.wral.com/health/10327099/detail.html>