

Food Safety Alert – 11/17/06

The Salinas Californian is reporting that U.S. Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel) held a luncheon on Capitol Hill Thursday to support the spinach industry. With more than 300 in attendance, it was the largest of its kind promoting spinach in congressional history. Guests included Robert Brackett, director of the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition and USDA Secretary Mike Johanns. Also in attendance were members of the Agricultural Appropriations Committee. Joseph Pezzini, chairman of the Grower-Shipper Association of the Central Coast said, "All these (promotional efforts) are pieces of a bigger puzzle being put together. It's all important to restoring public confidence." The "I heart spinach" bumper stickers were also available at the event. It was so popular that they ran out of spinach.

The Californian also reported that Gov. Schwarzenegger sent a letter to Sen. Feinstein supporting the creation of an FDA Western Center for Food Safety and Defense. A logical choice, it would be centered at U.C. Davis where agricultural expertise is already in place.

<http://www.californianonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061117/NEWS01/611170302&GID=uNmU6biklXCkzqureKYD6qC3ojm6rDDJpC+AuDI3qV4%3D>

Food Production Daily is reporting that scientists with the USDA and University of Lleida in Spain are researching alternatives to conventional produce washes. According to the article, apple puree and oregano oil act as a natural antibacterial agent and have shown promise in laboratory studies. The study is to be published in the November 29 issue of the American Chemical Society's Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry.

<http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/news/ng.asp?n=72140-apple-pathogens-e-coli>