

## Food Safety Alert – 2/23/07

The *Salinas Californian* is reporting that farmers are awaiting word from packers on what to plant this spring. Due to the recent E. coli outbreaks, they are uncertain what the demand will be for certain crops. As we know, spinach has not yet made a full recovery from last fall. "Packers aren't sure what to contract farmers to grow at this point. Whatever the crops will be, the fields will be ready," says Hollister area farmer Joe Zanger. Farmers in the area have until late March or early April to get their crops into the ground.

<http://www.californianonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200770223001>

According to PR Newswire.com, BJ's Wholesale Club has announced that the Wellsley Farms brand of sliced fresh mushrooms are not contaminated with E. coli. Tests confirmed today, from two independent laboratories, that all Wellsley Farms fresh mushrooms testing negative. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, BJ's Wholesale Club had voluntarily recalled mushrooms purchased between February 11-19.

"BJ's Wholesale Club issued the mushroom recall earlier this week out of an abundance of caution in order to protect its Members. The company takes food safety issues seriously and strives to make decisions that ensure the health and safety of its Members."

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/02-23-2007/0004533652&EDATE>