



UPDATED Statement Regarding CDC Report of Increased Illnesses Related to Multistate Outbreak of E. coli Linked to Romaine Lettuce from the Yuma, Ariz. Growing Region

UPDATED May 2, 2018

We are aware of the recent update from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on the multistate outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 linked to romaine, which reports the total number of illness cases is now 121, with one death. The report can be viewed [here](#).

We want to reiterate once again that our position has not changed from our original assessment. We have not been contacted by any of our produce suppliers or by any regulatory agencies in relation to this advisory or report, and we continue to maintain that we have no reason to believe any of our products were affected.

Last week, the FDA identified Harrison Farms of Yuma, Ariz., as the grower and sole source of the whole-head romaine lettuce that sickened several people in an Alaska correctional facility. However, they have not yet determined where in the supply chain the contamination occurred. Harrison Farms is not a contracted grower for Bonduelle Fresh Americas, home of Ready Pac Foods, and we have not sourced any romaine from them throughout the timeline of this romaine incident.

Additionally, as of Friday, April 13, 2018 at 8:30 p.m. Pacific time, we have completely eliminated all Yuma-grown romaine, chopped and whole heads, from our network. Additionally, we have only been shipping non-Yuma-grown romaine from all of our facilities since the advisory was first issued and this continues through today.

At BFA, the safety and quality of our products is our number one priority. We test all of our leafy greens (including romaine) in the fields prior to harvest. All tests done prior to harvest and on finished product include screening for E. coli O157:H7. We have had no romaine lots nor any finished products sourced from the Yuma, Ariz. growing region test positive for E. coli O157:H7 since the beginning of the outbreak through today.

We will continue to monitor the situation very closely, following any and all direction given by governmental agencies involved.

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