

MONTEREY COUNTY



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LEN FOSTER, Director

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Press Release

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Parker Farms recalls Products for Possible *Listeria* Contamination

No illnesses have been reported in connection with this recall.

Parker Farms has recalled selected products because there is a potential of *Listeria Monocytogenes* contamination.

The recalled products were distributed nationwide in the following retail stores: Rainbow, Safeway, Target, Costco, Whole Foods, Sams Club, Jewel, Shop Rite, Dominicks, Marsh, Price Chopper, Nash Finch, Hy-Vee, Byerlys Lunds, and Cub.

The recall affects the following products are sold under the Parkers Farm or Parkers label:

- 16 ounce Peanut Butter in square plastic containers. Varieties are Cream, Crunchy, Honey Creamy and Honey Crunchy with sell by dates between 11/14/2010 and 12/31/2010.
- 34 ounce Peanut Butter in round plastic containers. Varieties are Creamy and Crunchy with sell by dates between 8/11/2010 and 9/30/2010.
- 7 ounce Bagel Spreads in white plastic containers. Varieties are Garden Veggie, Wild Berry, Strawberry, Apple Cinnamon and Honey Walnut with sell by dates between 5/13/2010 and 6/30/2010.
- 14 ounce Dips and Spreads in square plastic containers. Varieties are Jalapeno Nacho, Pimento, and Salsa Con Queso with sell by dates between 8/11/2010 and 9/30/2010.
- 8, 12 and 16 ounce Cold Pack Cheese in round or square plastic containers. Varieties are Sharp Cheddar, Bacon, Onion, Smoked Cheddar, Swiss Almond, Horseradish, Garlic, Port Wine, and Swiss and Cheddar with sell by dates of 11/14/2010 and 12/31/2010.
- 16 ounce Salsa in Square plastic containers. Varieties are Hot, Mild, Garlic, Black Bean and Fire Roasted with sell by dates between 3/14/2010 and 4/30/2010.

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Other labels affected by this recall:

- 16 ounce Happy Farms Cold Pack Cheese in round plastic containers. Varieties are Sharp Cheddar, Port Wine, and Swiss Almond with sell by dates between 11/24/2010 and 12/10/2010.
- 8 ounce Kroger Cold Pack Cheese in round plastic containers. Varieties are Cheddar, Port Wine, and Swiss Almond with sell by dates between 11/18/2010 and 12/15/2010.
- 8 ounce Central Markets Pack Cheese in round plastic containers. Varieties are Cheddar, Port Wine, Horseradish, and Swiss Almond with sell by date of 12/9/2010.
- 14 ounce Central Markets Salsa con Queso in round plastic containers with sell by date of 8/26/2010.
- 16 ounce Central Markets Pack Cheese in round plastic containers. Varieties are Cheddar, Port Wine, Horseradish, and Swiss Almond with sell by dates between 3/17/2010 and 3/24/2010.
- 8 ounce Dutch Farms Cold Pack Cheese in Round Plastic containers. Varieties are Sharp Cheddar, Port Wine, Swiss Almond, Horseradish, and Swiss & Cheddar with sell by dates of 11/16/2010 through 11/18/2010.

Sell by dates are clearly printed on the container ½ inch from the top.

The recall is a result of sampling done by the States of Wisconsin and Minnesota which revealed that some of the finished products contained the *Listeria* bacteria. The Food and Drug Administration and the Company are investigating what caused the contamination.

No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this recall.

Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease. Healthy people rarely contract listeriosis. However, listeriosis can cause high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness and nausea. Listeriosis can also cause miscarriages and stillbirths, as well as serious and sometimes fatal infections in those with weakened immune systems, such as infants, the elderly and persons with HIV infection or undergoing chemotherapy.

Consumers should contact their physician if they have eaten the products and have any of these symptoms or are concerned about possible exposure.

Consumers who have purchased these products are urged to return it to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact Parkers Farms at 800-869-6685.

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Photos of the recalled products are available at
<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm197204.htm>

The Monterey County Health Department releases notices of recalls and market withdrawal from the firms involved as a service to Monterey County residents, the media and other interested parties. The Health Department does not endorse either the product or the company.

Additional information on listeriosis

How you can reduce your risk for listeriosis

General recommendations:

- Thoroughly cook raw food from animal sources, such as beef, pork, or poultry.
- Wash raw vegetables thoroughly before eating.
- Keep uncooked meats separate from vegetables and from cooked foods and ready-to-eat foods.
- Avoid unpasteurized (raw) milk or foods made from unpasteurized milk.
- Wash hands, knives, and cutting boards after handling uncooked foods.
- Consume perishable and ready-to-eat foods as soon as possible

Recommendations for persons at high risk, such as pregnant women and persons with weakened immune systems, in addition to the recommendations listed above:

- Do not eat hot dogs, luncheon meats, or deli meats unless they are reheated until steaming hot.
- Avoid getting fluid from hot dog packages on other foods, utensils, and food preparation surfaces, and wash hands after handling hot dogs, luncheon meats, and deli meats.
- Do not eat soft cheeses such as feta, Brie, and Camembert, blue-veined cheeses, or Mexican-style cheeses such as queso blanco, queso fresco, and Panela unless they have labels that clearly state they are made from pasteurized milk.
- Do not eat refrigerated pâtés or meat spreads. Canned or shelf-stable pâtés and meat spreads may be eaten.
- Do not eat refrigerated smoked seafood unless it is contained in a cooked dish, such as a casserole. Refrigerated smoked seafood, such as salmon, trout, whitefish, cod, tuna or mackerel, is most often labeled as "nova-style," "lox," "kippered," "smoked," or "jerky." The fish is found in the refrigerator section or sold at deli counters of grocery stores and delicatessens. Canned or shelf-stable smoked seafood may be eaten.

Source: *Centers for Disease Control, Division of Foodborne, Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases*