



Environmental
Health

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Update	Recall of Organic Pastures Grade A Raw Cream
Principal Investigator:	Jerry LeMoine
Date:	September 24, 2007
Release #:	2007-cream-2

INCIDENT

- The California Department of Food and Agriculture has issued an order to Organic Pastures Dairy Company to withdraw from retail distribution Grade A raw cream manufactured at their facility in Fresno, due to detection of *Listeria monocytogenes* bacteria. The raw cream is packaged in one-pint plastic bottles coded “sep 14 through sep 21.” This updates a Public Health Advisory issued September 8, 2007. As of September 20, 2007, the California Department of Agriculture has now permitted Organic Pastures to sell and distribute raw cream within the State of California.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTION

- Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Staff has contacted retail stores that may have the product to verify that the recalled product was pulled from shelves.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Division is warning consumers not to consume any recalled raw cream they may still have in their homes. Consumers should dispose of any of this product remaining in their refrigerators.

INFORMATION

- *Listeria monocytogenes* may cause serious symptoms in those “at risk” people including pregnant women, newborns, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, and sometimes nausea or diarrhea. If infection spreads to the nervous system, symptoms such as headache and stiff neck representing possible meningitis may occur. Infected pregnant women may experience only a mild, flu-like illness; however, infections during pregnancy can lead to more serious problems for the fetus, including stillbirth. Consumers should seek immediate medical care if they develop these symptoms. The great majority of cream consumed in California is pasteurized. Raw cream is not. Pasteurization eliminates the risk of this bacterial illness. California consumers who have purchased Organic Pastures brand raw cream may call the company at 1-877-RAW-MILK (1-877-729-6455) or FDA Consumer Inquiries at 1-888-INFO-FDA with questions about the product withdrawal.
- No illnesses have been reported to date.
- www.santacruzhealth.org/alerts for informational updates and other alerts



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

- **Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- **Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- **Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.