



FSIS ISSUES PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT FOR BEEF HOT DOGS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8, 2008 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is issuing a public health alert for approximately 8,784 pounds of hot dog products because the products may contain non-fat dry milk and soy, known allergens, which are not declared on the label. The products were produced at Dietz & Watson, Inc., a Philadelphia, Pa., establishment.

This public health alert was initiated after a consumer complaint investigated by FSIS and Applegate Farms confirmed that the products were mislabeled.

The products subject to this public health alert include:

- 16-ounce packages of “Applegate Farms Certified Organic, the GREAT ORGANIC UNCURED HOT DOG.”
- 16-ounce packages of “Applegate Farms Certified Organic STADIUM ORGANIC UNCURED BEEF HOT DOGS.”

Each package also bears the establishment number “Est. 9574” inside the USDA mark of inspection and a use-by or freeze-by date of “JAN 15 08.” The hot dog products were produced on Nov. 21, 2007, and were distributed to retail establishments nationwide.

Based on product shelf life, these products would no longer have been sold in grocery stores after Jan. 15, 2008. However, these products could be in consumers’ freezers and it is important that consumers look for them.

FSIS has received one consumer complaint of an allergic reaction due to the consumption of these products. Anyone concerned about an allergic reaction should contact a physician.

Media with questions should contact Linda Boardman at Applegate Farms 1-800-587-5858, ext. 700. Consumers with questions should contact Gina Asoudegan at Applegate Farms 1-800-587-5858, ext. 800.

Consumers with food safety questions can “Ask Karen,” the FSIS virtual representative available 24 hours a day at AskKaren.gov. The toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) is available in English and Spanish and can be reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday through Friday. Recorded food safety messages are available 24 hours a day.

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NOTE: Access news releases and other information at FSIS’ Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>.

