



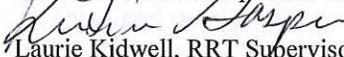
**Indiana State
Department of Health**
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Michael R. Pence
Governor

Jerome M. Adams, MD, MPH
State Health Commissioner

DATE: January 14, 2015

TO: All Local Health Departments
Attn: Chief Food Inspection Officer

FROM: 
Laurie Kidwell, RRT Supervisor
Food Protection Program

SUBJECT: Bidart Bros. - RECALL [Food]

AFFECTED PRODUCT: All Bidart Bros. Granny Smith and Gala apples still available in the marketplace

SUMMARY: Unclassified Recall; The products are being recalled because test results confirm two strains of Listeria monocytogenes were found at the apple processing facility and are believed to be the same strains associated with the outbreak. Those same strains were also found in Bidart Bros. apples collected from a retailer by the FDA.

Consumers should not eat the Granny Smith and Gala apples being recalled by Bidart Bros. These apples can be sold under the brand names "Big B" and "Granny's Best," though, they could also be sold under other brand names or with no brand at all. Consumers who are buying or have recently bought Granny Smith or Gala apples should ask their retailers if the apples were supplied by Bidart Bros.

The recalled products were distributed nationwide.

SUGGESTED ACTION: Recommend notification of affected parties via phone, fax, or e-mail. Consumers should avoid eating commercially produced, prepackaged whole caramel apples including those various brands and types containing nuts, sprinkles, chocolate & other toppings that were manufactured using Bidart Bros. apples. Consumers who are buying or have recently bought caramel apples should ask their retailer if the caramel apples were manufactured using recalled apples. Contact: Jake Burns Apple Packing Manager Bidart Bros. 4813 Calloway Drive Bakersfield, CA 93312 Phone: (661) 399-0978. Furthermore, if any recalled products are found, notify this office at 317-233-8475.

Recall -- Firm Press Release

FDA posts press releases and other notices of recalls and market withdrawals from the firms involved as a service to consumers, the media, and other interested parties. FDA does not endorse either the product or the company.



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To promote and provide
essential public health services.

Bidart Bros. Works with Federal and State Officials to Determine Source of Listeriosis-Associated Outbreak

Contact:

Consumer:
(661) 399-0978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — January 9, 2015 — Bakersfield, Calif. — Today, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the results of findings from additional tests performed on samples collected from Bidart Bros. apple processing plant. Test results confirm two strains of *Listeria monocytogenes* were found at the apple processing facility and are believed to be the same strains associated with the outbreak. Those same strains were also found in Bidart Bros. apples collected from a retailer by the FDA. Today, the CDC confirmed that the majority of the persons made ill reported consuming caramel-coated apples.

“The results are devastating to the Bidart family,” says Leonard Bidart, President Bidart Bros. “As a family-owned grower operating in California since the 1930s, we place safety at the forefront of everything we do. Our hearts go out to all who have been impacted by the apple-related listeriosis outbreak.

“From the moment we learned of the issue, we committed ourselves to cooperating completely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the California Department of Public Health.” The FDA notified Bidart Bros. of the results of the additional testing today.

Given the findings from the latest test results, and out of an abundance of caution, the company has instituted a voluntary recall of all Bidart Bros. Granny Smith and Gala apples still available in the marketplace. Bidart Bros. is contacting all of their retailers with specific instructions as to how to return those apples to Bidart Bros. Bidart Bros. last shipped Granny Smith apples to customers on December 2, 2014.

Consumers should not eat the Granny Smith and Gala apples being recalled by Bidart Bros. These apples can be sold under the brand names “Big B” and “Granny’s Best,” though, they could also be sold under other brand names or with no brand at all. Consumers who are buying or have recently bought Granny Smith or Gala apples should ask their retailers if the apples were supplied by Bidart Bros. Other varieties of apples and apples from other growers are not affected by the recall.

Consumers should avoid eating commercially produced, prepackaged whole caramel apples including those various brands and types containing nuts, sprinkles, chocolate & other toppings that were manufactured using Bidart Bros. apples. Consumers who are buying or have recently bought caramel apples should ask their retailer if the caramel apples were manufactured using recalled apples.

Recommendations for preventing listeriosis are available at the CDC Listeria website:
<http://www.cdc.gov/listeria/prevention.html>.

Bidart Bros. takes product safety very seriously, which is why the company has extensive, time-tested best practices within their facilities to address contamination-related issues. Each year, Bidart Bros. voluntarily requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) conduct an audit of Bidart Bros. food-safety and food-handling protocols. On September 19, 2014, the USDA certified that for 2014 Bidart Bros. met the USDA criteria for good agricultural practices and good handling practices in its apple plant. Yet, as a result of these latest findings, Bidart Bros. is reviewing all of their procedures to ensure that the product that leaves the facilities is safe.

Contact:

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