



To: Our Valued Customers
From: Church Brothers Produce and True Leaf Farms

Date: July 26, 2007
Re: Spring Mix and Arugula

The Spring Mix and Arugula products that True Leaf Farms, LLC voluntarily withdrew from the marketplace on July 25, 2007 have been confirmed free from contamination.

The Spring Mix that had tested positive for the potential contamination of *Salmonella* is now believed to have been tainted by laboratory error. On Thursday July 26th, 2007, Silliker Inc., a Northern California Laboratory, verbally notified True Leaf Farms the previously reported PCR positive result for *Salmonella* in spring mix was probably erroneous. He offered the following evidence.

- The type of *Salmonella* isolated was identical with the laboratory positive control strain, indicating laboratory contamination was the most likely cause for the positive result.
- The laboratory positive control strain is an extremely rare strain not normally found in foods, further reflecting laboratory error led to the positive finding.

Furthermore, new test results on the same product batches from another independent lab show no indication of contamination. All tests were negative. Based on the new information from Silliker about the erroneous result and the new independent test showing no contamination, **True Leaf Farms, LLC is confident the Spring Mix is not adulterated in any manner and does not need to be withdrawn from the marketplace, as previously thought.** The FDA and the California Department of Food and Agriculture have been notified of our actions.

True Leaf Farms and Church Brothers reacted to this situation with consumer protection in mind. Even though this "positive" report turned out to be an error, we believe withdrawing all of the product was still the right thing to do. There can simply be no higher priority than the safety of our customers. We are extremely sorry for the inconvenience it has caused.

Should you have any further questions regarding the contents of this communication, please contact Tom Church (800) 799-9475 or (831) 796-1040 or Steve Church at (800) 799-9475 or (831) 796-1038.

