

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



California
Department of
Health Services
SANDRA SHEWRY
Director



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

July 18, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Sprout Safety Public Meeting

The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) strongly encourages the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to implement mandatory Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) for sprouts. Sprouts are a potentially hazardous food and have been linked to numerous foodborne disease outbreaks in California and in other states and countries. Furthermore, the sprout industry has failed to implement voluntary guidelines to ensure compliance with good agricultural practices (GAPs) and good manufacturing practices (GMPs).

Attached is a survey of California sprout manufacturers conducted by CDHS. The results of the survey show that severe deficiencies still exist in the sprout production even after several years of in-depth inspections and significant training and education efforts. CDHS strongly supports implementation of mandatory HACCP for sprouts.

Sincerely,

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