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THE PALM BEACH COUNTY GREENMARKET ASSOCIATION

December 9, 1997

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Joan E. Duy  
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HSF-335)  
**Food & Drug Administration**  
200 C Street, SW, Room 3812  
Washington, DC 20204  
Fax: 202-205-4422

Dear Ms. Duy,

Attached are the comments of the Palm Beach County GreenMarket Association in response to the President's request for input on safety from microbial hazards for fresh fruit and vegetables.

Sincerely,

Mary Dettmers, Director  
Palm Beach County GreenMarketAssociation

Attachment

cc: Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) ✓  
Food & Drug Administration  
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23  
Rockville, MD 20857

97N-0451 /md



559 N. MILITARY TRAIL, WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33415-1311  
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A PROJECT OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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# THE PALM BEACH COUNTY GREENMARKET ASSOCIATION

December 8, 1997

Lynn Isaacs  
**Food and Drug Administration**  
Florida District Office  
7200 Lake Ellenor, Suite 120  
Orlando, FL 32809

Dear Ms. Isaacs,

In response to your request for input into the draft **Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**, the Palm Beach County GreenMarket Association recommends *making explicit* the common sense truth that:

**“All other things being equal, the shortest distance from the farm to the table is the best assurance of safety from microbial hazards for fruits and vegetables. A local food supply reduces opportunities for *exposure* to microbial hazards. Also, fresher foods are *more resistant* to pathogens.”**

Like many communities, Palm Beach County is united in efforts to provide a *fresh* healthy food supply for residents and visitors. Our Agricultural Enhancement Council--a partnership between agriculture and government--is taking steps to ensure that the local population has the healthiest food supply possible. Among its programs are:

- **“Ask Where It’s Grown”**, a public education campaign informing consumers about the personal and community benefits of choosing locally-grown produce
- **The Palm Beach County GreenMarket Association**, an association of seven municipalities operating open-air community farmers markets. The markets offer residents local produce and foods and give entrepreneurs direct marketing opportunities
- **Palm Beach County Growing Tours**, “Dedicated to the wise, environmentally-sound exploration of our agricultural, environmental and historic landscapes.”

Eating from a locally produced food supply is good ecology, good economy and good preventive health care. We trust the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture will include recognition of these universally acknowledged truths in their report to President Clinton.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Mary Dettmers  
Director

Enclosures

cc: Drew Duda, Chairman  
Palm Beach County Agricultural Enhancement Council  
  
Clayton Hutcheson, Director  
County Cooperative Extension Service



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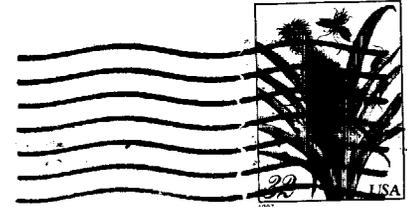


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