

Comment Info: =====

General Comment:RE: Docket number AMS-FV-07-0090; FV07-962-1 AN. Pages: 56678 - 56680, Federal Register/Vol. 72, No. 192/Thursday, October 4, 2007/Proposed Rules.

I regularly buy fresh leafy greens from local farmers with small-scale operations. This rule would effectively shut down such operations, since the proposed rules are clearly designed for industrial agriculture operations and threaten the farming methods employed by small farms and organic operations. The scientific substantiation behind the proposed rules seems flawed. Any rule in these regards should be delayed until scientifically proven methods for reducing E.coli 0157 are verified. The fact that the California Leafy Green Marketing Agreement (LGMA) guidelines have allowed for massive recalls in two separate instances suggests the procedure is ineffective.

The California guidelines have also demonstrated negative impacts on organic farmers and those who pursue farming practices dependent on biodiversity. If such a rule were to be put into place, it should be geared specifically to large-scale producers and should have a cap on farm size. Specific leafy greens that have never propagated an outbreak should be an exception. Farmers focused on a local niche without national distribution should also be an exception to the rule.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Maggie Sullivan