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CONSUMERS WARNED NOT TO EAT LOS ANGELES CALCO, INC.
BRAND ALFALFA SPROUT PRODUCTS

SACRAMENTO – Dr. Mark Horton, director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), today warned consumers not to eat brand alfalfa sprouts distributed by Los Angeles Calco, Inc. because the products may be contaminated with Salmonella, which can cause serious illness.

Los Angeles Calco, Inc., which is headquartered in Arcadia, is voluntarily recalling these products after routine testing detected Salmonella in its Calco brand alfalfa sprouts. No illnesses associated with the Southern California firm’s alfalfa sprouts have been reported at this time.

"Consumers, especially young children, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems, are susceptible to serious infection when exposed to Salmonella," Horton said. "Today’s warning is part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of foods sold in California."

Los Angeles Calco, Inc. recalled alfalfa sprouts manufactured by Arizona Hydroponics in Eloy, Arizona for Los Angeles Calco, Inc. and were distributed to two produce firms in California. The firms are located in Los Angeles:

- Brostoff Celle, 1601 E. Olympic Blvd. # 505, Los Angeles, CA 90021
- Banana Company, 1601 E. Olympic Blvd. # 325, Los Angeles, CA 90021

CDPH is working with Los Angeles Calco, Inc. to determine whether there was additional distribution of the recalled products. Recalled alfalfa sprouts are packaged in 4 ounce, clear flexible clam-shell plastic containers and bear the sell by dates April 23, 2009 or May 2, 2009.
CDPH continues to advise consumers about the risk of consuming raw sprouts. Conditions required for sprout growing are ideal for rapid bacterial growth. Sprouts usually are eaten raw with no additional treatment such as cooking which eliminates bacteria that can cause disease. Consumers who wish to decrease their risk of food borne illness may wish to avoid consuming sprouts.

Salmonella is an organism that can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in infants, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with Salmonella often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. Consumers who have eaten this product and are experiencing the above symptoms should consult their health care provider.

Consumers who purchased these products should immediately discard them. Consumers with questions may contact Los Angeles Calco, Inc. at (626) 930-1988.

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