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FDA Says It's Ok to Enjoy All Tomatoes

Fresno, CA. (July 17, 2008) – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today lifted its advisory that consumers not eat certain tomatoes from certain areas. FDA has said that consumers should enjoy any and all tomatoes on the market.

“That FDA has concluded that all tomatoes are safe and lifted all warnings will be welcome news to all consumers”, said Ed Beckman, CTF President, “For our members, who were never associated with this outbreak, we would expect that consumer confidence will begin to rebound with today’s announcement. We can help regain consumer confidence by finding solutions to the many challenges of investigating food safety outbreaks.”

Although California-grown tomatoes were not associated with the salmonella outbreak, California Tomato Farmers is working with FDA and other Federal and State agencies to learn how the trace back process can be improved. California Tomato Farmers recently hosted a tour for House Energy and Commerce Committee staff members demonstrating the food safety and trace back programs employed by the cooperative.

Members of California Tomato Farmers are committed to ensuring the field-grown tomatoes we produce are always safe to eat. Therefore, we have made food safety a top priority, with all members producing tomatoes under rigorous food safety standards and all ranches and packinghouses subject to mandatory random and unannounced audits by trained inspectors of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

More information about California Tomato Farmers can be found on the organization’s website at www.californiatomatofarmers.com.

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