



MEMO

TO: Our valued customers

FROM: Paula Munoz, Food Safety Manager/ Buyer

Date: November 27, 2018

SUBJECT: Romaine Advisory Update

The FDA released an update on the E.Coli outbreak associated with romaine lettuce therefore lifting the temporary ban on the use of any romaine lettuce. Below are the main points we want you to take into consideration when going forth with purchasing any future romaine lettuce. Please be assured that A&B Produce takes great caution in putting our customer's food safety and will continue to implement every effort in order to protect them.

- the FDA is announcing new steps to help consumers better identify where their romaine is grown through voluntary labeling
- the outbreak appears to be related to “end of season” romaine lettuce harvested from these areas which include the Central Coast growing regions of central and northern California.
- Since the harvesting of romaine lettuce from this region has ended for the year. Growing and harvesting of romaine lettuce is now shifting to the winter growing regions of the U.S., which include mainly the California desert region of the Imperial Valley, the desert region of Arizona in and around Yuma, and Florida.
- Romaine lettuce that was harvested outside of the Central Coast growing regions of northern and central California does not appear to be related to the current outbreak.***

We currently have on hand a limited amount of romaine shipped from Yuma that was not affected by the recent advisory. Going forward we expect to increase our inventory of romaine lettuce with new shipments out of the Yuma, Arizona growing region to arrive later this week. We expect prices for all lettuces and lettuce blends to remain high as the market re-stabilizes its supply.