



**Indiana State  
Department of Health**  
*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

**Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.**  
*Governor*

**Gregory N. Larkin, M.D., F.A.A.F.P.**  
*State Health Commissioner*

**DATE:** August 3, 2012

**TO:** All Local Health Departments  
Attn: Chief Food Inspection Officer

**FROM:**   
A. Scott Gilliam, MBA, CP-FS  
Director, Food Protection Program

**SUBJECT:** Burch Equipment LLC Recall

**SUGGESTED**

**ACTION:** Unclassified Recall; 13888 cases of whole Athena variety cantaloupes ( 9 cantaloupes per case) and 581 bins ( 110 cantaloupes per bin) of Athena variety cantaloupes due to the potential for being contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes; Information is being provided in case of consumer inquiry.

From the information provided by FDA, the recalled products were distributed in the neighboring State of Illinois. The whole Athena variety cantaloupes were shipped between July 15th and July 27th and distributed to retail stores operating in FL, GA, IL, MD, NC, NJ, NY, PA, SC and VA.

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**Recall -- Firm Press Release**

FDA posts press releases and other notices of recalls and market withdrawals from the firms involved as a service to consumers, the media, and other interested parties. FDA does not endorse either the product or the company.

**Burch Equipment LLC Expands Cantaloupe Recall Due to Possible Health Risk**

**Contact:**  
Consumer:  
910-267-5781  
[burch@intrstar.net](mailto:burch@intrstar.net)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** - August 2, 2012 - Burch Equipment LLC, North Carolina is expanding their recall that was initiated on July 28th, 2012. The firm is voluntarily recalling 13888 cases of whole Athena variety cantaloupes ( 9 cantaloupes per case) and 581 bins ( 110 cantaloupes per bin) of Athena variety cantaloupes due to the potential for being contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. Melons affected by this recall total 188,902.

*Listeria monocytogenes* is an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Although healthy individuals may suffer only short-term symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea, *Listeria* infection can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant women.

The whole Athena variety cantaloupes were shipped between July 15th and July 27th and distributed to retail stores operating in FL, GA, IL, MD, NC, NJ, NY, PA, SC and VA. The whole cantaloupes are identified by a red label reading Burch Farms referencing PLU # 4319. All cantaloupes involved in the recall were grown by Burch Farms, however some of the cantaloupes may have been identified with a "Cottle Strawberry, Inc." sticker referencing PLU #4319. Cottle Farms is not involved in this recall. The Athena variety cantaloupe is the most commonly grown in the east. Cantaloupes from Burch Farms were shipped to retail establishments in both corrugated boxes (9 cantaloupe per case) and in bulk bins.

Burch Equipment LLC is requesting any consumer that may have one of these cantaloupes to discard the product.

There have been no illnesses reported to date. FDA and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture are working with Burch Equipment LLC following a random sample of an Athena variety cantaloupe testing positive for *Listeria monocytogenes*. The recall expansion is based on unsanitary conditions found at the cantaloupe packing shed during FDA's ongoing inspection that may allow for contamination of cantaloupes with *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Questions can be directed to Burch Equipment LLC at 910 267 5781 Monday through Friday, (9:00am to 4:00pm) or email [burch@intrstar.net](mailto:burch@intrstar.net).

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[RSS Feed for FDA Recalls Information](#)<sup>1</sup> [what's this?<sup>2</sup>]

Original Press Release - July 30, 2012<sup>3</sup>