



January 6, 2015

Dear Valued Customer:

After an extensive investigation in cooperation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and out of an abundance of caution, Bidart Bros. is issuing a voluntary recall of all Granny Smith and Gala apples (fresh-pack, peelers, and processors) shipped from our Shafter, California packing facility in 2014. Tests from the packing house conducted on December 23, 2014, confirmed the presence of *Listeria monocytogenes* on the apple packing production line. Bidart Bros. shut down that line at the end of the season in late October and made its last shipment of Granny Smith apples on December 2, 2014. If you believe that you may still have product in your warehouse, please contact Bidart Bros. immediately for further instructions. Please notify all of your customers who purchased Bidart apples of this recall and ask them to notify their customers of the recall as well. This recall should reach the retail level. Customers will receive a full refund for all apples returned. Please contact:

Jake Burns, Apple Packing Manager
Bidart Bros
4813 Calloway Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93312
Phone: (661) 399-0978

As a family-owned grower operating in California since the 1930's, Bidart Bros. places safety at the forefront of everything we do. Our hearts go out to all who have been impacted by the apple-related listeriosis outbreak. According to the CDC, as of December 30, 2014, 32 people infected with the outbreak strains of *Listeria monocytogenes* have been reported from 11 states. The CDC reports that 31 ill people have been hospitalized and six deaths have been reported. To date, most of the persons made ill reported eating caramel coated apples.

Bidart Bros. takes product safety very seriously which is why the company has extensive, time-tested best practices within its facilities to address contamination related issues. Each year, Bidart Bros. voluntarily requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) conduct an audit of its food-safety and food-handling protocols. In September 2014, Bidart Bros was given an acceptable rating by the USDA following its latest inspection. Yet, as a result of these latest findings, Bidart will review all of its procedures to ensure that its products are safe. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jake Burns at the number above.

We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Bidart Bros.

By: Leonard A. Bidart, President