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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Consumer Advisory: State Agriculture Director Issues Food Safety Alert for Potato Salad**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Aug. 31, 2007) – Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) Director Robert Boggs in conjunction with The Kroger Co. today advises consumers not to consume Kroger brand *Mustard* or *Southern-Style* potato salad with a "Best If Used By" date of Sept. 5, 2007, because it may contain *E. coli* O157:H7.

ODA's Consumer Analytical Laboratory tested a sample of the Kroger brand *Mustard* or *Southern-style* potato salad collected during routine food safety sampling, and found it positive for *E. coli* O157:H7, a foodborne pathogen.

To date, no illnesses have been reported, and additional samples analyzed by a certified, third-party laboratory contracted by Kroger have tested negative for *E. coli* O157:H7. As a precautionary measure, The Kroger Co. has removed the product from sale. The company encourages consumers to check their refrigerators and freezers for this specific product and, if found, to return it to the store for a full refund.

For more information regarding this product withdrawal, please visit [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com).

Through ODA's Division of Food Safety, the department helps assure consumers are provided foods, over-the-counter drugs, dietary supplements, and cosmetics that are safe, unadulterated, and honestly presented. Random, routine testing at the department's Consumer Analytical Laboratory helps identify potentially dangerous or adulterated products. In addition to advising consumers, the department has notified the Food and Drug Administration and local health departments.

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