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Contact: Tom Schlueter

(630) 444-3098

630-417-9129 (cell)

www.kanehealth.com

Maytag Dairy Farms recalls blue cheese because of food safety concern

The Kane County Health Department is advising that Maytag Dairy Farms of Newton Iowa is voluntarily recalling several lots of "Maytag Blue" blue cheese wedges and wheels and 15 batches of blue cheese crumbles because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*.

No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this issue. The recalled product was distributed through retail stores, restaurants, and direct mail orders nationwide between December 11, 2015, and February 11, 2016. To learn more and for updates, please visit www.maytagdairyfarms.com.

The potential for contamination was discovered after testing by the State of Iowa revealed the presence of *Listeria monocytogenes* in two lots of product. Maytag Dairy Farms has voluntarily suspended production and distribution while the company collaborates with FDA and the State of Iowa to determine the cause of the problem.

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.

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Consumers who have purchased these products are urged to discard them immediately and not consume them. Customers can call Maytag Dairy Farms at 800-247-2458 or 641-791-2010 Monday – Friday 9AM-5PM CST to arrange for a refund and return of the product.

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