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US, CANADA AND UK - FOOD COMPANIES WHICH WON'T SELL FOOD GROWN IN SEWAGE SLUDGE BIOSOLIDS

Originally Posted by BlueSky 

*Have a read of your grain merchant's T&Cs. I know Gleadells have a clause in there that say they won't take produce that has had Biosolids on it. This isn't just milling either. It's also irrespective of the safe sludge matrix. It's just an a*se covering exercise but could have implications.*

<http://www.gleadell.co.uk/UI/Documents/Farmer%20Terms%20and%20Conditions%20of%20Purchase%202010.pdf>

page 3

Bio Solids (Human Waste/Sludge)

By entering into a transaction Buyers are understood to be aware that crops grown on land that has had any form of Bio-solids (human waste or sludge) applied will be restricting the number of outlets for their grain. Currently there are numerous buyers whose terms do not permit the application of Bio-solids to land. If crops are from land that has had any form of human waste and/or sludge applied this must be notified to the Buyer prior to entering into any contract.

[Gleadell Agriculture Ltd - International Grain, Seed and ...](#)

www.gleadell.co.uk/

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**Food Companies, farm groups, etc. who won't grow food in
sewage sludge biosolids**

Allen Canning Company, Siloam Springs, Arkansas

Campbell Soup Company

Comstock Michigan Fruit Division

Dean Foods Vegetable Company, Green Bay, WI (Birds Eye products)

Del Monte, SF, CA

Heinz, USA, Pittsburgh, PA

National Food Processors Association, Dublin, CA

Nestle USA

Perez Packing, Firebaugh, CA

**Progresso (Pillsbury, Green Giant, Totinos, Jenos, Haagen Dazs,
Martha White, Old El Paso)**

Seabrook Farms, Seabrook, NJ

Seneca Foods Corp. Marion, NY (Libbys)

Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, Modesto, CA

TVG – Tri Valley Growers, Modesto, CA

Van Den Berch Foods Co, Merced, CA

Vermont Family Farms Milk, Whiting, VT

"Frontier's for 2006/07 state [sludge] treated land must not be used for producing cereals for malting or distilling or oats for milling.

[Gleadell's](#) latest indicate grain should not be produced on land that has had any form of human waste or sludge, **as this severely restricts outlets."**

"[Scottish Quality Cereals](#) allows crops to be grown using treated sewage products under the 1989 Sludge (Use in Agriculture) regulations and the SSM, notes FW Barometer grower John Hutcheson. **But Quaker, for whom he grows milling oats, does not permit sludge use, he notes."**

<http://www.fwi.co.uk/Articles/2006/10/06/98617/Sewage+sludge+issue+remains+unresolved.html>

July 2008: A spokesperson for Northfield, Illinois-based Kraft Foods, Inc. said the company refuses to accept food products grown on sludge-covered farm fields."

RESTATEMENTS OF CAMPBELL'S AND DELMONTE – FEBRUARY 2008

----- Original Message -----

From: "Maureen Reilly" <maureen.reilly@sympatico.ca>

To: <cgsnyder@post.harvard.edu>; <hshields@worldpath.net>;
<ehallman@dhbblaw.com>; <edo_mcgowan@hotmail.com>; <Fg325@aol.com>

Cc: <maureen.reilly@sympatico.ca>

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2008 9:08 PM

Subject: More statements from food companies that won't use sludge- Campbell DelMonte

The Campbell Soup Company has a long standing policy of not using produce grown on land that has been treated with biosolids. The rationale for this decision is the potential toxicological food safety risk posed by concentrated heavy metals in the soil. These concentrated heavy metals may be absorbed by the plants (as they grow) at levels that would be unacceptable for human consumption. While the actual risk to humans is small, Campbell Soup Company is fully dedicated to protecting the food safety of our valued consumers and of course, our products.

Anne Yourt
Brand Communications Manager

Campbell Company of Canada

t: 416.251.1131 ext. 8479

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Del Monte has a policy of no application of biosolids to any Del Monte crop.

We first developed this policy in the early 1980's due to concerns about trace amounts of heavy metals and chemicals in biosolids. There are technical reasons such as these behind why we do not allow biosolids, but our main concern is upholding the high standard of healthy, nutritious foods that our consumers trust and expect.

Mary Sestric

Corporate Communications

Del Monte Foods

375 North Shore Drive

Pittsburgh, PA 15217

412.222.8091

---[Wegmans Food Markets - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. is a 70-store U.S. regional supermarket chain with stores in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, and Maryland. ...

Original Message -----

From: comments@wegmans.com

To: foxhillfarm@mtwirefree.net

Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 2:13 PM

Subject: Wegmans Case #486801

Thank you for taking the time to contact us again with your question, **No none of our items are grown in Biosolids or Sewer Sludge.**

Sincerely,
Cathy Lombard
Consumer Services Specialist

DOLE – April 2008 – no food fertilized with sludge biosolids

To <peter_gilmore@na.dole.com>

cc

Subject RE: DOLE Gaston County Processing Plant - Ref No: 001128019A

Thanks, Peter. Then would it be appropriate, then, to include DOLE with other food industries that do not purchase vegetables grown using sewage sludge as fertilizer? If so, how should I list Dole – Dole Foods, Inc.?

Also, please let me know if you would be interested in being placed on our sludge list serve to receive report/research/articles on sludge.

Best -

Sue Dayton
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
North Carolina Healthy Communities Program
PO BOX 44
Saxapahaw, NC 27340
(336) 525-2003
sdayton@swcp.com

From: peter_gilmore@na.dole.com [mailto:peter_gilmore@na.dole.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2008 1:51 AM

To: Sue Dayton
Subject: RE: DOLE Gaston County Processing Plant - Ref No: 001128019A

Sue,
That is correct. This is what we've told the media:

Dole does not buy nor grow any produce that has been fertilized with municipal treated biosolids. There is a specific policy regarding using them in any of our own farming operations or those of outside growers who supply us product. So please proceed to list us.

Peter

<http://www.thestar.com/printArticle/459085> -July 12, 2008 - Canada



Is sewage fertilizer safe?

“Several major food companies are not taking any chances. Del Monte, Campbell Soup and Gerber won't use food that has been fertilized with biosolids. Not enough is known about biosolids, they say.

Del Monte developed its no-biosolids policy in the early '80s, concerned that trace amounts of heavy metals and chemicals might find their way into the food chain. The other firms have also had long-standing policies.”

February 8, 2008

The Right to Know

Are farmers aware that many major food processors will not purchase their products, if they are derived from land to which biosolids have been applied? Maple Leaf Foods, for example, were asked if they sold food which was grown on biosolids-applied agriculture land. On August 18,

2005 Maple Leaf Foods Consumer Response representative Amanda Clarke, replied, "We do not sell any foods that are grown on land spread with biosolids."

In addition, conservative industry groups, such as the National Food Processors Association (NFPA), as well as the American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI), have banned the purchase of food crops grown on sludge-applied land in the United States of America, for fear of dangerous health effects and resultant liability problems. Some of the many food processors adhering to this ban are Seneca Foods, Hunt Wesson Inc., J. R. Simplot, Del-Monte, Kraft, Campbells, and Heinz.

Are farmers aware of what biosolids contain and that biosolids may be persistent and bioaccumulative, thus posing serious public health risks? Is the farmer aware that he or she may be subject to liability if problems arise from the land application of biosolids?

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WASHINGTON – BREWERIES SAY: NO BEER HOPS GROWN IN SLUDGE

Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2009 7:58 AM
Subject: [Sludge] (WA) Biosolids deal called off

<http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2009/10/28/biosolids-deal-called-off>

Biosolids deal called off

WASHINGTON - SLUDGE PLAN cancelled - - BREWERIES - NO HOPS GROWN IN SLUDGE- & neighbors oppose- [Sludge] (WA) Biosolids deal called off

"But the plan went awry due to growing opposition from neighbors of the farms. The residents of the Hi Valley View subdivision in Terrace Heights, which sits adjacent to a field owned by Roy Farms, were especially vocal about the potential for odor, dust and truck traffic."

“Mike Roy said nothing that happened at the forum changed their minds. Roy added that opposition from breweries was also a factor in the company's decision to nix the deal. One of the company's major products is hops, a key ingredient in beer. “

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CANADA – NOVA SCOTIA – LOBLAWS – NATIONAL GROCERY
RETAILER SAYS NO FOOD GROWN IN SLUDGE – NOV. 3, 2009
<http://www.novanewsnow.com/article-396634-Citizen-concern.html>

Citizen concern

Speaking out against bio-solids

[by Kirk Starratt/The Advertiser](#)

“Farmer Greg Webster commented economics is the only reason farmers are using bio-solids; they are not making enough money to farm with proper inputs.”

“If consumers start asking questions, retailers may refuse to buy produce grown with bio-solids. Should this happen, farmers using the products will be putting their access to markets and future land use at risk. Webster said a food safety auditor with Loblaws told him that use of N-Viro products would mean an automatic fail. He added use of bio-solids is “putting the whole food production system at risk.””

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CANADA – (note: Loblaws and Sobeys are the number 1 and number 2 food chains in Canada.)

<http://www.thecoast.ca/halifax/the-burden-of-biosolids/Content?oid=2439755>

NOVA SCOTIA – April 26, 2011

The burden of biosolids

Sewage is being used as fertilizer, but it's not the real problem: it's all the other stuff in the mix. Though manufacturers say "biosolids" are safe, many in Nova Scotia are taking a stand against them.

by [Miles Howe](#)

Lil MacPherson, co-owner of Halifax's The Wooden Monkey restaurant, is part of a number of food industry entrepreneurs who simply won't deal with farmers who use biosolids on their land.

"Biosolids is not for the Monkey," says MacPherson, "and we don't support that. We support and focus on buying from Nova Scotia farmers, and we will not buy any products that are grown using biosolids. Biosolids is not about recycling, it's just pollution transfer. It's not for the future of farmers in Nova Scotia, and we are supporting the farmers that are taking a stand with us."

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/NovaScotia/1167757.html>

No biosolids on his back 40

Sewage sludge has no place in agriculture, farmer says

By GORDON DELANEY Valley Bureau

Mon. Feb 15, 2009 - 4:54 AM



Greg Webster of Webster Farms in Cambridge, Kings County, says food safety and land preservation issues should prevent farmers from spreading biosolids on their land. (GORDON DELANEY / Valley Bureau)

CAMBRIDGE — Greg Webster is an eighth-generation farmer in Nova Scotia.

And apart from the fruit, berries and beans that he grows on his farm in Cambridge, Kings County, Webster is known for speaking his mind.

So it shouldn't come as a surprise that he's weighing in on the controversial issue of spreading treated sewage sludge on farmland.

The use of biosolids as fertilizer will compromise the land and raise food safety issues in the minds of consumers, hurting farmers in the long run, he said in an interview at his large farm that abuts both sides of Highway 1 just east of Berwick.

"I think, as an industry, we need to take the high road, not the low road," said Webster, who sits on several agricultural committees and worked with the Canadian Horticultural Council in developing a food safety program for fruit growers.

Many farmers have been quiet on the issue of biosolids. The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has remained neutral, neither endorsing nor opposing their use.

But Webster said the issue needs to be discussed openly.

"I'm not a tree hugger," he said. "I don't even pretend to be. I certainly understand why some of the guys are buying this stuff, because it's a cheaper source of nutrients.

"I can't argue with their logic, on an economic basis, but they're putting the screws to the rest of the industry to save their short-term economic hides.

"And it may be legal, but there is legal and there is right, and this just isn't right."

Food safety and land preservation issues should prevent farmers from spreading treated sewage sludge on their land, he said.

Webster Farms, also owned and operated by brothers Chris and Brian, sells product to **Loblaw Companies Ltd. and Sobeys, which have food safety protocols. "The retail industry has basically told suppliers they must guarantee the quality of their food," Webster said.**

The Canadian Horticultural Council, with support from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, spent the last eight years putting together food safety programs.

"And one of the issues is biosolids," said Webster, who sat on the berry crops safety committee.

"In the food safety program, it says that municipal waste cannot be used, period."

Loblaw is requiring all of its suppliers to use the council's food safety programs and to pass an annual food safety audit.

Using biosolids on farmland results in an automatic failing grade, "and when they score you with a fail in any audit, the auditor walks out the door and you're done," said Webster.

As part of the food safety programs, farmers are responsible for knowing what took place on that land over the previous five years.

"There is a lot of land trading and crop rotation in the Valley," Webster said. "If we get enough land covered with municipal waste that we can't rotate fruit and vegetable crops through it, we've diminished our viable land base."

And that flies in the face of recent efforts to protect prime agricultural land, he said.

Webster said Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau's denial of a Kings County request for a moratorium on biosolids flies in the face of having an agricultural land review committee hold public meetings around the province.

"I don't understand the logic of one minister saying it's OK to do this and another having a committee going around the province trying to decide if and how we should protect farmland," Webster said.

"I'm real concerned about the long-term availability of the industry to access the land base and stay competitive.

"I know Halifax Regional Municipality has a sewage problem, but is it prudent to shove the problem onto your own food supply?"

He said consumers will shun products grown in biosolids.

"If we keep this up, we won't need to protect farmland, because we're going to have denied ourselves the market."

Richard Williams, chairman of the agricultural land review committee, said in a recent interview that the subject of biosolids is coming up at meetings around the province.

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill is involved in a three-year study examining biosolids and the heavy metals and pharmaceuticals they may contain.

Rob Sampson, president of N-Viro Systems Canada, the company that treats and converts Halifax Regional Municipality's sewage into biosolids, did not reply to a request for an interview.

The province says it is up to individual farmers if they want to use the material on their land.

(gdelaney@herald.ca)

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CANADA NOVA SCOTIA – APRIL 14, 2010

<http://www.news957.com/news/local/article/44890--n-s-grocery-stores-ban-produce-grown-using-biosolids>

Despite assurances from Environment Minister Stirling Belliveau that biosolids, or human sewage sludge are safe for fertilizing crops, **any farmers using it won't have their products sold in Atlantic Superstore or Sobeys outlets.**

Jeannie Cruikshank of the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors says the grocery stores also require suppliers to disclose the use of any non-agricultural generated bio-solids - which refers specifically to sewage sludge, a by-product of Halifax's sewage treatment plants.

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RICK HOWE 
Halifax News Net

<http://www.halifaxnewsnet.ca/index.cfm?sid=336521&sc=612>

Rick's Rants Wednesday April 14th/2010

Would you continue to manufacture a product if it was highly controversial and faced a shrinking market? Likely not. It's a question that needs to be asked of the city after **revelations the two big grocery store chains now require Nova Scotia's farmers to disclose what they use as fertilizer on their crops before they accept their product for their store shelves. And if they use what the industry calls bio-solids and environmentalists call human sewage sludge, the grocery stores will not accept those products.** Who makes the stuff? The city of Halifax. It's a by-product of the sewage treatment plants that's shipped off to a firm in the Aerotech Industrial Park by the airport where it's treated and converted to fertilizer. Critics like the

Green Party's Elizabeth May say even after the treatment process the stuff contains lots of heavy metals, pathogens and traces of pharmaceuticals. But Nova Scotia's Environment Minister Stirling Belliveau stood in the legislature last week to insist it was safe. Who you going to believe ?

And if the grocery stores won't sell anything grown using the sludge, is there enough of a market to warrant continuing to make it? And considering the on-going questions about its risk to human and environmental health, why would the city want to continue?

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<http://www.halifaxnewsnet.ca/Blog-Article/b/11758/Ricks-Rants-Monday-September-27th2010>

RICK'S RANTS

A growing number of Nova Scotia farmers want to make it clear they do not use biosolids on their fields. Biosolids is a term coined by the industry to make sewage sludge sound more palatable. It's human waste turned into fertilizer, a by-product of Halifax's sewage treatment plant. 400 farmers have signed their names to a list of farms not using biosolids. You can find their names at www.nsen.ca

October 30, 2009

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: FDA-2009-D-0346; **Guidance for Industry: Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards of Tomatoes; Draft Guidance**

On behalf of companies in the fresh tomato supply chain, United Fresh Produce Association (“United Fresh”) appreciates the opportunity to comment on FDA’s draft Guidance for Industry: Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards of Tomatoes (“Guidance”).

page 2 -

"4. **Water Use in the Field: “Ensuring that water used for application to edible portions of tomato crops, such as foliar applications, is of appropriate microbial quality for its intended use”**

We believe that “appropriate microbial quality” does not provide sufficient guidance in this context. We further believe that water that contacts the edible portion of tomatoes must have the microbiological quality of drinking water. We therefore suggest that the bullet be as follows: “Ensuring that water used for application to edible portions of tomato crops, such as foliar applications, meets the requirements of 40 CFR Part 141.63 regarding the microbiological quality of drinking water.” We suggest that FDA similarly revise recommendations for water used for crop protection sprays in this section and in Greenhouse.”

pages 2-3

We further believe that FDA should expressly recommend against the use of sewage sludge or biosolids as soil amendments. We suggest that this sentence be replaced with “Eliminating use of sewage sludge, biosolids, and raw or improperly composted animal manure as a soil amendment.”

http://www.metro.co.uk/news/article.html?in_article_id=236914&in_page_id=34&in_a_source=&expand=true

UNITED KINGDOM

Human sewage used for cereals

by ANTHONY PHILLIPS - Sunday, July 27, 2008



Cereal: could it have been produced using human waste?

Supermarket shoppers are unwittingly eating cereal products grown in Britain using human sewage.

Sainsbury's admitted last night that some of its crops use the fertiliser, which is cheaper than the animal-based variety.

Waitrose insisted it abided by regulations governing the use of human waste but would not say which products might be involved. A spokeswoman insisted that fruit, vegetables and salad were free from the fertiliser.

However, Tesco, Asda and Marks and Spencer said they did not use human waste.

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<http://irishfarming.ie:80/2009/03/21/assurance-scheme-will-not-cover-grain-produced-using-human-sewage-sludge/>

Assurance scheme will not cover grain produced using human sewage sludge

By IrishFarming.ie on Saturday, March 21, 2009

Filed Under: Farming News

Grain produced using human sewage sludge will not be covered under the Irish Grain Assurance Scheme, it has emerged.

The technical committee of the Cereals Association of Ireland, which operates the grain assurance scheme, took the decision on Thursday morning.

Officials from the Food Safety Authority, Irish Grain and Feed Association, Department of Agriculture, Teagasc and the IFA are expected to formally ratify the decision this week.

There is concern over the serious lack of legislative control over the spreading of raw and treated sewage sludge on agricultural crops.

There is no definitive figure for how much land is spread with sewage sludge.

Irish farm products which will be free of sewage sludge: (see attached file)

IGAS is the accepted standard for production, transport, handling and storage of the Irish cereal crop. It is required by the :

- **Brewing and Distilling Industry**
 - **Flour Millers**
 - **Oatflake Manufacturers**
 - **Animal Feed Manufacturers**
 - **Pea Processors**
 - **Grassmeal Manufacturers**
 - **Irish Seed Assemblers**
-

<http://business.scotsman.com/agriculture.cfm?id=436332005>

Sun 24 Apr 2005

Scots farmers turn up their noses at using human waste on fields

KATH GOURLAY AND JEREMY WATSON
jwatson@scotlandonsunday.com excerpts

IT MAY not be to everyone's taste but it is certainly causing a stink. A row has broken out between food producers and scientists in Scotland over the controversial use of human fertiliser on farmland.

“But some producers fear that, despite scientific assurances, consumers will reject food that has been produced in this way. One local meat co-operative is already considering withdrawing from QMS over concerns its reputation will suffer and others may follow suit.

Edgar Balfour, manager of Orkney Meat, said: "Scientifically it's not an issue, but the general public are the people who will or won't buy our product. “

Cheesemakers in the Orkney Islands are also concerned their products will be tainted by accusations they come from cows that graze on land covered with human waste.

Hilda Seator supplies Grimbister Farm cheese to Harrods and the Savoy.

She said: "Never would I use milk from such land. It makes your stomach churn."

“The threat of a boycott if customers find out, however, is not an idle one.

Tim Deakin, the marketing manager of Orkney Cheese, said: "We've got a very high-quality reputation - and reputations can be lost overnight.

"We have written to all the dairy producers in the area saying we would not accept milk from animals fed on human waste by-products."

Deakin added that, as a firm supplying major supermarket outlets such as Tesco, Safeway and Asda, it could not afford the adverse publicity. "It's a marketing nightmare we were not willing to be part of."

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<http://www.beachcalifornia.com/california-food-facts.html>

California has been the number one food and agricultural producer in the United States for more than 50 consecutive years.

To protect the land and the clean and pure image and quality of their fruits, vegetables and other crops, one by one, California agricultural counties banned or strictly

regulated the land application of sewage sludge biosolids.

<http://www.ocgrandjury.org/pdfs/biosolids.pdf> ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT::

“In June 2000, OCSD (Orange County Sanitation District, CA) purchased 1800 acres of farm land in Kings County, California, to provide a reliable, long-term site for treatment and land application of biosolids.”

“In recent years, OCSD has been frustrated by the passage of local ordinances and rules that have restricted use of sites, required costly treatment before application, or completely banned the use of biosolids. These restrictive local ordinances and mounting public opposition portend an eventual end to direct use of biosolids on farm lands.”

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ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT::

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Taking advantage of their right under federal sludge laws to enact more stringent local ordinances, here is list of California Counties (mostly agricultural) which have enacted ordinances controlling or banning the landspreading of sewage sludge biosolids:

20 CALIFORNIA COUNTIES ALREADY BAN OR REGULATE SLUDGE BIOSOLIDS SPREADING:

----- Original Message -----

From: Liu, Marie

To: 'HShields'

Sent: Friday, April 15, 2005 7:28 PM

Subject: CA county ordinances

This is the most recent data that I could find about county ordinances on land application. The consultants that were working on this warned me that this list is changing monthly (as you can tell since this is now a list of 20 instead of 17). This list is from January 2004 – which seems to be the last time someone compiled the

info. I am working on getting copies of these ordinances.

Complete Ban (4):

Sutter

San Joaquin

Stanislaus

Santa Cruz

Effective Ban (8):

Monterey

San Benito

Yuba

Glenn

Imperial

San Luis Obispo

San Bernadino

Ventura

Regulated Use (8): (many of these are bans on Class B sewage sludge biosolids)

Solono

Merced

Yolo

Kern

Riverside

Tulare

Fresno

Kings