April 1, 2008

State Farmers Markets  
Roadside Markets  
Produce Stands

Dear __________________,

In an effort to protect public health from food borne diseases and illnesses, as well as possible intentional threats, we would like to solicit your help in preventing the sale of food which has been prepared off-site without approval or inspection from the South Carolina Department of Agriculture or other appropriate agency. Under the South Carolina Food & Cosmetic Act, as well as other laws and regulations regarding the sale of off-site prepared items, cooked food products and canned goods must be prepared, labeled, and inspected in accordance with state and Federal laws.

As you are aware, Farmer Markets often have vendors who want to sell pre-cooked food products that have been prepared off-site. As a result we are requesting your assistance in this matter by helping us to notify vendors of their possible legal liability and responsibilities in the sale of food products prepared off-site.

Therefore, to ensure that all vendors understand the restrictions and specific requirements involved in the sale of food products, which have been produced off-site, we ask that you have your renters sign a statement similar to the following:

I, _______ (vendor’s name) ____________________________, do hereby understand that I cannot legally sell any food products which are produced off-site which have not been labeled, processed and prepared in compliance with the South Carolina Food and Cosmetic Act or other appropriate Regulations. You may contact the South Carolina Department of Agriculture/Food Safety and Compliance Section at (803) 737-9690 with any questions you might have about this section.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and if you should have any further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Derek M. Underwood
State Manager, Food Safety and Compliance
Consumer Services, SCDA