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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Department of Agriculture Finds *Listeria* in Submarine Sandwich

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Aug. 27, 2008) – Ohio Department of Agriculture’s (ODA) Consumer Analytical Laboratory today confirmed a positive test for *Listeria monocytogenes*, a dangerous foodborne bacterium, in a submarine sandwich collected from a Circle K store located at 36391 Vine Street in Willoughby, Ohio. No known human illness has been associated with this confirmation.

“The Ohio Department of Agriculture, through its regulatory authority, is entrusted with the foremost responsibility of safeguarding the health of Ohio’s food supply, consumers, environment, animals and plants,” said ODA Director Robert Boggs. “This confirmation is another example of the extent to which the department’s daily efforts protect consumers from food-borne illnesses.”

A sample of an American Submarine sandwich was taken by an ODA food safety inspector on Aug. 18, from the Circle K store in Lake County. The sandwich provider for Circle K stores, Landshire, Inc. of Bellville, Ill., has requested all stores immediately remove the product from their shelves.

As part of ODA’s efforts to safeguard Ohio’s food supply, routine food samples are taken from retail food establishments, distribution warehouses, and other locations throughout the state and are brought back to the department’s state-of-the-art laboratories. Department scientists conduct tests to detect foodborne bacteria, such as *Listeria monocytogenes*, *E. coli* O157:H7, and *Salmonella*.

The *Listeria monocytogenes* found in the food sample is a bacterium that 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, listeriosis can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant women.

For more information on the product withdrawal, call Landshire, Inc. at 618-398-8122.

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