



Media Statement

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Contact: Patrick Delaney, pdelaney@unitedfresh.org, 202-303-3400 ext. 417

United Responds as EWG Issues Dirty Dozen List

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In response to Monday’s release by the Environmental Working Group of the “Dirty Dozen” shopper’s guide, United Fresh Produce Association President and CEO Tom Stenzel issues the following statement:

“At a time when medical experts strongly urge Americans to realize the health benefits from eating more fruits and vegetables, it is irresponsible to mislead consumers with a sensational publicity stunt disguised as science. While its authors admit the “health benefits of a diet rich in fruits and vegetables outweigh the risks of pesticide exposure,” the Dirty Dozen list will almost certainly discourage many people from eating the recommended amounts of fresh produce and potentially diminish the nutrition and health of millions of Americans.

“If anything, the USDA data report, from which the Dirty Dozen is purportedly created, underscores the safety of fruits and vegetables. In its latest report, the USDA states the overall residues found on tested foods were “at levels below the tolerances established by EPA,” which are measured in parts-per-million and typically established with a 100-fold or greater safety margin.

“The more productive focus would be to help millions of Americans achieve the health benefits from better nutrition, including a diet rich in fruits and vegetables. United Fresh Produce Association remains steadfastly committed to working with government leaders, health professionals, the produce industry and others to make this goal a reality.”

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*Founded in 1904, the **United Fresh Produce Association** serves companies at the forefront of the global fresh and fresh-cut produce industry, including growers, shippers, fresh-cut processors, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, foodservice operators, industry suppliers and allied associations. From its headquarters in Washington, D.C. and Western Regional office in Salinas, Calif., United Fresh and its members work year-round to make a difference for the produce industry by driving policies that increase consumption of fresh produce, shaping critical legislative and regulatory action, providing scientific and technical leadership in food safety, quality assurance, nutrition and health, and developing educational programs and business opportunities to assist member companies in growing successful businesses. For more information, visit www.unitedfresh.org or call 202-303-3400.*