

# Will the Big Bad Wolf Get Food Poisoning From Grandma's Cooking?<sup>1</sup>

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## 1. Food Safety is in the News!

Everyday there is another food-borne illness outbreak

The public is becoming more educated in the area of food-borne illness

The government is taking notice and passing new laws and regulations to protect the public

"Are forest-based food products potentially hazardous foods?"

## 2. Major Factors Contributing to Foodborne Disease in the 1990's

Changes in food consumed

New methodology of food production and processing

Distribution of food products

Emergence of new infectious agents or new trends with known agents

## 3. Nature and Extent of Food-borne Illness

Estimated between 24 to 81 million cases/year

Estimated annual cost: \$7 to \$23 billion/year

Effects range from discomfort to death

Large percent of food-borne illness is preventable

## 4. Food Safety Categories

Food - microorganisms indigenous to food products

People - people transfer dangerous bacteria to the food products

Facilities - the environment in which products are processed can harbor dangerous bacteria

## 5. What causes Food-borne Illness?

Bacteria

Parasites

Viruses

Chemicals (natural or added) - Toxins

"Potentially Hazardous Foods?"

## 6. "It can't happen to us - we're natural or organic!"

## 7. Food-borne Outbreaks in recent years

E. coli O157:H7 in hamburger, apples, sprouts, lettuce, water parks

Hepatitis A in strawberries

Salmonella and *Campylobacter* in poultry

Cryptosporidium in water

Cyclospora in raspberries

## 8. Forest Products - concern???

Fruits - apples, berries

Nuts - acorns, walnuts

Meats - Venison, Bear, Moose

Plants - ginseng

Mushrooms

Medicinal herbs

## All Have Been Implicated In Food-borne Outbreaks!!

## 9. Food Safety from Farm to Table

Safety Initiative - 1997 A new strategy for the 21st Century - National Food

## 10. National Food Safety Initiative

A new interagency strategy to prevent food-borne disease

Food-borne illness: a significant public health problem

The current system for protecting food

Immediate actions to improve food safety

A new early warning system for public health surveillance

Coordination at the federal level of the four agencies: FDA, CDC, FSIS and EPA

Risk Assessment

Research

Inspections

Education

## 11. What does this mean to the "Forest Farmer" Processor?

Same regulations will apply with respect to production, processing, marketing of forest-based products as do to traditional products

"Natural or "Organic" does not mean "SAFE" with respect to food-borne illness

Education and Awareness are the keys

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