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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Associated Food Stores Receives High Marks From Utah Department of Agriculture and Food for Handling of Recent Cargill Turkey Recall

Salt Lake City, UT (August 8, 2011) – Associated Food Stores (AFS) was recently commended by representatives from the USDA for the company's quick response and handling of the Cargill turkey recall. On August 3, Cargill Value Added Meats issued a Class I voluntary recall of fresh and frozen ground turkey products (80%, 85% and 93% lean).

Richard Clark, director of regulatory services of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food praised Associated Food Stores' efficiency and AFS' handling of the recent Cargill turkey recall.

"The UDAF appreciates the proactive manner in which you addressed the ground turkey recall. Your team identified and quarantined the product immediately upon learning of the recall. We appreciated AFS' quick action in letting us know about the recall as you learned about it. Your heads-up arrived several hours ahead of the official government notices," said Clark.

AFS has had one of the industry's best recall systems in place since 2007. This system is used to gather information about recalls as they happen and then distribute all information directly to store teams who take immediate necessary action.

"AFS is in direct contact with manufacturers and we often have information sent out to all of our corporate and independent stores hours to days before state and federal authorities post their own recalls," said Steve Johnson, AFS recall coordinator.

During the most recent Cargill Turkey recall, AFS used its recall system, which includes email notices, SMS (text) messaging, phone calls and postings to the company's internal website to inform retailers about the recall. Stores were given all of the information supplied by Cargill as well as signs to hang in-store to educate customers.

"At Associated Food Stores, we have taken a proactive approach to handing all manufacturer recalls. We receive the information directly from manufacturers and often remove the product from shelves prior to being notified by federal or state officials. We believe that our store guests' health and safety comes first and we work closely with all of our retailers to accomplish this," said Johnson

"It is nice to have an effective working relationship with Associated Food Stores," said Clark.

AFS employs a full-time team that tracks all food safety issues and is responsible for evaluating and communicating all risk factors to its 500+ retail members.

For more information and complete details regarding the recall, please visit www.cargill.com/turkey-recall or call 1-888-812-1646. A press release is also available from the Associated Food Stores' website regarding the Cargill incident: http://www.afstores.com/news/2011/AFS%20Cargill%20Recall.pdf

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Associated Food Stores is an independent retailer-owned warehouse based in Salt Lake City, Utah, which provides products and services to more than 500 grocers throughout the Intermountain West. Associated Food Stores can be found on the internet at www.afstores.com.

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